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IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1970

No. 1634

DELAWARE & HUDSON RAILWAY COMPANY, ET AL.,
Petitioners,

v.

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, *Respondent.*

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

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No.

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v.

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, *Respondent.*

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

Petitioners pray that a writ of certiorari issue to review the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit entered in the above-entitled case on March 31, 1971.

OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion of the Court of Appeals (including the appendices thereto), not yet officially reported, is set forth in the Appendix at 1a-72a, and is unofficially reported at 76 LRRM 2900 and 65 Labor Cases ¶ 11,629. One of the appendices to that opinion sets forth the oral opinion of the District Court (App., at 56a-59a), and that oral opinion is unofficially reported at 76 LRRM 2898.

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the Court of Appeals, entered on March 31, 1971, is set forth in the Appendix at 73a. Also on March 31, 1971, the Court of Appeals through the office of its Clerk issued a "Statement in explanation to the effect of the judgment of the court issued March 31, 1971," which is set forth in the Appendix at 74a. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. § 1254(1).

QUESTION PRESENTED

In a collective bargaining dispute under the Railway Labor Act as to which m 'ti-employer bargaining is obligatory, does a "selective" or "whipsaw" strike by the union against one or a few of the 169 railroads involved in the dispute violate the Railway Labor Act?

STATUTES INVOLVED

The statutory provisions principally involved are Sections 1 Sixth, 2, 2 First, 2 Second and 2 Third of the Railway Labor Act (44 Stat. 577, as amended, 45 U.S.C. § 151 *et seq.*), as follows:

Section 1 Sixth, 45 U.S.C. § 151 Sixth:

> The term "representative" means any person or persons, labor union, organization, or corporation designated either by a carrier or group of carriers or by its or their employees, to act for it or them.

Section 2, 45 U.S.C. § 151a:

> The purposes of the Act are: (1) To avoid any interruption to commerce or to the operation of any carrier engaged therein; (2) to forbid any limitation upon freedom of association among employees or any denial, as a condition of employment or otherwise, of the right of employees to

join a labor organization; (3) to provide for the complete independence of carriers and of employees in the matter of self-organization; (4) to provide for the prompt and orderly settlement of all disputes concerning rates of pay, rules, or working conditions; (5) to provide for the prompt and orderly settlement of all disputes growing out of grievances or out of the interpretation or application of agreements covering rates of pay, rules, or working conditions.

Section 2 First, 45 U.S.C. § 152 First:

It shall be the duty of all carriers, their officers, agents, and employees to exert every reasonable effort to make and maintain agreements concerning rates of pay, rules, and working conditions, and to settle all disputes, whether arising out of the application of such agreements or otherwise, in order to avoid any interruption to commerce or to the operation of any carrier growing out of any dispute between the carrier and the employees thereof.

Section 2 Second, 45 U.S.C. § 152 Second:

All disputes between a carrier or carriers and its or their employees shall be considered, and, if possible, decided, with all expedition, in conference between representatives designated and authorized so to confer, respectively, by the carrier or carriers and by the employees thereof interested in the dispute.

Section 2 Third, 45 U.S.C. § 152 Third:

Representatives, for the purposes of this Act, shall be designated by the respective parties without interference, influence, or coercion by either party over the designation of representatives by the other; and neither party shall in any way interfere with, influence, or coerce the other in its choice of representatives. Representatives of em-

ployees for the purposes of this Act need not be persons in the employ of the carrier, and no carrier shall, by interference, influence, or coercion seek in any manner to prevent the designation by its employees as their representatives of those who or which are not employees of the carrier.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Petitioners are 169 carriers by rail, comprising most of the nation's Class I railroads, and respondent is a union representing most of their operating employees in collective bargaining under the Railway Labor Act. Insofar as now pertinent,[1] this litigation arose out of a collective bargaining dispute initiated in the fall of 1969, pursuant to Section 6 of the Act (45 U.S.C. § 156), when respondent served petitioners with identical notices of proposals for a general wage increase and improvements in fringe benefits, and petitioners served respondent with identical notices of counter-proposals for changes in a number of obsolete work and pay rules.[2] See App., at 2a.

The bargaining in the dispute has been conducted on a multi-employer basis (commonly referred to in

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[1] Initially, the litigation also involved similar disputes between petitioners and three other unions representing most of their nonoperating employees (the Brotherhood of Railway and Airlin Clerks, Etc.; the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes; and the Hotel and Restaurant Employees & Bartenders International Union). The disputes with those unions subsequently were settled by voluntary agreements. See pp. 8-9, *infra*.

[2] For example, petitioners proposed to change existing rules which generally prohibit petitioners from requiring road employees to cross "division" lines established at roughly 100 mile intervals around the turn of the century in recognition of the fact that, at that time, it required eight or more hours to move a train that far. Since that trip may take as little as two or three hours today, the existing rules no longer serve any justifiable purpose and interfere with efficient operations. See Report of Emergency Board No. 178, at 24-28.

the railroad industry as "national handling") between national representatives of petitioners (the National Railway Labor Conference and three regional carriers' conference committees) and national officers of respondent. This was requested by respondent and accorded with the practice that has been followed in the industry for many years in regard in disputes over issues of national importance. See App., at 2a-3a. The reasons are explained in the Hiltz Affidavit (¶¶ 24-30) filed in the District Court.[3] In brief, those reasons are these: Labor costs amount to approximately 50% of railroad operating expenses, and thus are a very significant factor in the ability of the railroads to compete with each other as well as with other modes of transportation. Individual handling of such issues as wages would tend to force each side to adopt extreme positions, and thus inhibit peaceful settlement of such disputes, because the particular carrier would be fearful that otherwise it might agree to more than its competitors would agree to, while the union negotiators on that carrier would be fearful that more would be obtained by union negotiators on other carriers. Respondent's President, in the hearing in the case at bar, strongly endorsed the importance of these considerations. As he put it at one point, for example, in response to the question whether it has been "consistently [his] objective, since this movement started, to handle the wage issue on a national basis":

> "You have to do that. We would have chaos in the industry and in our organization, too, if two men were doing the same work and getting dif-

[3] Petitioners' affidavits referred to herein were introduced into evidence in the trial court and the witnesses tendered for cross examination. We refer herein to the affidavits by the last name of the affiant.

> ferent pay. It has to be handled that way." App., at 39a.

And, as the Chairman of the Railway Labor Executives Association (which then included respondent's predecessors and almost all of the other railroad unions) said in testifying before Congress in 1967, individual handling of industry-wide disputes would not be "practical" because "[y]ou would have to have 200 or 300 separate negotiations in the railroad industry in each movement" and "I don't believe it would work out." Therefore, he said:

> "[I]nsofar as national negotiations are concerned, as they have worked out in the past, it has been advantageous to both of us. I think it has helped us materially; it has helped the carriers materially. It has prevented, in my opinion, a great deal of chaos." Hiltz Aff., ¶ 28.

After conferences between the national representatives of the parties failed to settle the instant dispute, they invoked the services of the National Mediation Board, which mediated the dispute on a multi-carrier basis. When mediation failed, the Board requested the parties to submit the dispute to arbitration. Petitioners accepted, but respondent rejected, the proffer of arbitration. The Mediation Board therefore terminated its services on August 10, 1970. See App., at 3a-4a.

Under Section 5 First of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. § 155 First) the parties must maintain the *status quo* for 30 days after the Board's termination of its services. That period expired on September 9, 1970 and, on September 14, 1970, petitioners discovered that respondent and three other unions whose disputes with petitioners had followed a similar path (see fn.

1, p. 4, *supra*) intended to strike three of the petitioners (the B&O, the C&O, and the Southern Pacific) the next day. Strikes against one or a few of the many employers involved in a multi-employer dispute commonly are referred to as "selective" or "whipsaw" strikes, and such strikes had previously been held to violate the Railway Labor Act, in *Alton & Southern Railway Company, et al.* v. *International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, et al.*, reported *sub nom.*, as *International Ass'n of M. & A. W.* v. *National Ry. Labor Conf.*, 310 F. Supp. 905 (D. D.C., 1970), and in *Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R.R.* v. *Railway Emp. Dept.*, 301 F. Supp. 603 (D. D.C., 1969). Hence, petitioners commenced this litigation in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, invoking the jurisdiction of that Court under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337, 2201 and 2202, and requesting a declaratory judgment that such selective strikes violated the Railway Labor Act and injunctive relief prohibiting such strikes. The District Court issued a temporary restraining order, but the unions nonetheless struck the three petitioners on September 15th and did not return to work until late that day after the court issued an order to show cause why coercive civil contempt fines should not be imposed. See App., at 4a.

On September 18, 1970, before the matter could be further heard, President Nixon created Emergency Board No. 178 to investigate and report upon the disputes pursuant to Section 10 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. § 160). Section 10 authorizes the creation of an emergency board, in the discretion of the President, after the Mediation Board has terminated its services in a dispute which, "in the judgment of the

Mediation Board, threaten[s] substantially to interrupt interstate commerce to a degree such as to deprive any section of the country of essential transportation service," requires the emergency board to report within 30 days, and requires the parties to maintain the *status quo* until the expiration of 30 days following the report of the emergency board.

Emergency Board 178 issued its report on November 9, 1970. It recommended huge wage increases during each of the years 1970 (5% on January 1 and 32 cents per hour on November 1, a total of 13.5%), 1971 (4% on April 1 and 5% on October 1), and 1972 (5% on April 1 and 5% on October 1). Report, at 10-12. On a cumulative basis over the three-year period, the recommended increases would increase the existing wages by more than 37% and the industry's annual wage payments would be more than $1.6 billion higher at the end of that period than they were at the beginning—or about five times the expected net railway operating income of the entire railroad industry during 1970. Board 178 partially justified its staggering wage recommendations by recommending also "very substantial relief for the Carriers as to a number of restrictive work rules" (Report, at 3; see, generally, Report, at 12-39), and petitioners reluctantly accepted the entire package recommended by the Board in view of that partial offset despite the grossly inflationary wage recommendations. National agreements settling the disputes within the framework of the Board's recommendations eventually were reached with the other three unions, but respondent has continued to insist upon enjoying the benefits without incurring the detriments of the total package recommended by Board 178. It is satisfied with the recommended wage in-

creases, but has rejected recommended changes in existing rules. Hiltz Third Suppl. Aff. ¶¶ 3-7; Tr. 71. See App., at 5a, 52a.

The 30-day period following the report of the emergency board in which the parties were required by Section 10 to maintain the *status quo* expired at 12:01 a.m. on December 10, 1970, but the Congress, "in order to encourage these parties [to the disputes] to reach their own agreement," and in recognition of the fact that "it is essential to the national interest, including the national health and defense, that essential transportation services be maintained," enacted a law extending the *status quo* period until March 1, 1971, except that the 1970 wage increases recommended by Board 178 (13.5%) were placed into effect by that statute. P.L. 91-541, 84 Stat. 1407. The agreements with three of the unions, noted above, were reached during that extended *status quo* period, but respondent remained adamant. On March 7, 1971, petitioners obtained information which indicated that respondent—without giving any advance notice—intended to strike two of their number—the Burlington Northern and the Seaboard Coast Line—at midnight. Petitioners sought a temporary restraining order, but counsel for respondent assured the District Court that the selective strikes of the two (out of 169) railroads would be postponed until 2:00 p.m. on March 11, 1971, although concededly planned to begin at 12:01 a.m. on March 8th. Thus, no restraining order was issued, but petitioners' motion for a preliminary injunction was set for trial on March 10, 1971.

At that trial, petitioners introduced testimony by the Chairman of the National Railway Labor Conference, by the Vice President—Labor Relations of the

Burlington Northern, by the Chairman of the Board (and chief executive officer) of the Seaboard Coast Line, and by the President of the Southern Railway System, that one railroad cannot stand out alone for more than a few days at most against a strike by a national union, so that a natural and foreseeable consequence of a selective or whipsaw strike—unless enjoined by the courts or countered by a nationwide lockout—is to force the struck carrier to withdraw from national handling and seek a separate agreement on the best terms that it can obtain, however unreasonable. Hiltz Aff. ¶¶ 31-33; Hiltz Third Suppl. Aff. ¶¶ 8-21; DeButts Aff.; Rice Aff.; Claytor Aff.

The reasons why those experienced and responsible railroad officials reached that conclusion, as stated in their testimony, include the special vulnerability of the railroads because of their precarious financial condition; the fact that their business is a service, which cannot be stockpiled in preparation for a strike or replenished after a strike; the fact that traffic diverted to other railroads or to other modes of transportation often is lost forever, because customers forced to make other transportation arrangements may not resume using the struck railroad (or do so to a much lesser extent) after the strike is over; and the fact that petitioners' ability to make up for increased costs through higher rates is severely limited both by competitive considerations and by the extensive delays associated with Interstate Commerce Commission rate proceedings. The railroad unions, on the other hand, are in an unusually strong position. Not only do the non-striking workers refuse to cross the picket lines so as to make substantial continued operations impossible, but railroad employees—unlike those in any other indus-

try—are paid unemployment benefits wh[ile engaged in] a lawful strike or while refusing to cro[ss picket lines.] Moreover, those benefits, which are bo[th substantial] (usually $12.70 per day) and tax free[are made up] entirely from contributions by the rail[roads alone, so] that the railroads are in effect compel[led to subsidize] strikes against themselves. Finally, [the unions can] and do pay additional strike benefits f[rom funds con-] tributed by the union's members on a[carriers, not] just on the struck roads.

Respondent disputed none of this [evidence estab-] lishing that in ordinary circumstances [the result of a] selective strike is the destruction of [multi-employer] bargaining through the capitulation of [the isolated car-] riers, one-by-one, in separate agreem[ents. But re-] spondent urged that the selective s[trikes which it] planned would not have any such con[sequence because] it would insist upon a national agree[ment and would] refuse to bargain or agree separately [with the selec-] tively struck carriers. Thus, Mr. C[harles Luna, re-] spondent's President, replied, "That [is exactly what] I am saying," when asked if he was [suggesting that] if you strike the Coast Line that the[re is no way for] the Coast Line to settle with you, unl[ess all the other] roads settled," and further agreed tha[t the Coast Line] "couldn't make an individual agreem[ent." See App.,] at 49a-50a. This was so even thoug[h the selectively] struck carrier could not itself bring [about a national] agreement because, as the Chairman [of the National] Railway Labor Conference testified, "t[he National Rail-] way Labor Conference ("NRLC") c[annot relieve the] pressure on a whipsawed carrier by [entering into an] agreement on terms deemed by a ma[jority of the in-] dustry to be unreasonable," as "the [NRLC is bound]

to act in accordance with the desires of the majority of the members of the multi-employer bargaining unit." Hiltz Third Suppl. Aff. ¶ 16. In short, as Mr. Luna also agreed in his testimony, "if it [a national agreement] took a year, why conceivably Coast Line will still be struck," and that railroad is "going to be held hostage until a national agreement takes place." See App., at 50a, 52a.

The District Court issued a preliminary injunction against such selective strikes, on March 10, 1971, upon the basis of an oral opinion (App., at 56a-59a). In that opinion, Judge Pratt pointed out, among other things, that "the general rule in the Federal Courts has been that selective strikes under the circumstances of this case are illegal and properly enjoined," as they "are a clear violation of the [union's] obligations under Section 2, first and second, of the Act." App., at 58a. "According to the very frank testimony of Mr. Luna," such strikes could last "a week, a month, or a year," during which period the struck railroads "would be closed down and there would be no way of entering . . . an individual agreement with the union that these two carriers could get back into operation" (App., at 57a-58a); thus, they "are powerless until a national agreement is reached," and they "face the prospect of permanent injury and they possibly could be put out of business through the mere fact that the group to which they belong has not or has not been able to agree upon terms which are satisfactory to the union" (App., at 59a).

Respondent immediately noted an appeal and filed with the Court of Appeals a motion for immediate hearing and immediate summary reversal. The merits of the decision by the District Court were argued be-

fore the Court of Appeals on March 12, 1971, pursuant to that motion, only two days after the entry of the preliminary injunction. In an opinion (App., at 1a-72a) and judgment (App., at 73a) issued on March 31, 1971, the Court of Appeals reversed the District Court.

The opinion of the Court of Appeals is long (40 pages, exclusive of appendices) and complex, so that it cannot easily be summarized. In essence, however, the Court of Appeals appears to have held the following:

(1) The dispute involved in this case is one as to which multi-employer national handling is obligatory under the Railway Labor Act, and that obligation to bargain and agree on a multi-employer basis continue after the procedures prescribed by the Act have been exhausted. App., at 10a, 12a, 15a-16a, 37a. "The carriers begin with the premise that as to this dispute they have a continuing right to bargain and agree as a group through joint national representatives, and that the Union has a reciprocal obligation to respect that right. We do not understand the Union to contest this position and in any event we accept it.' App., at 16a.

(2) But "when collective bargaining on a national handling basis has come to an impasse and all procedures of the Railway Labor Act have been exhausted, it is not unlawful for the Union to call a strike against some or a few of the carriers in order to put pressure on the railroads to reach a national multi-employer agreement." App., at 13a. Thus, District Judge Parker in another case correctly held that "once the statutory procedures have been exhausted in good faith without agreement being reached upon a union bargaining notice whose national handling is obligatory

and negotiations are thus legally at an impasse, a selective strike action then becomes a legitimate economic tool which the union can exert against the carriers involved in the national handling negotiations so long as the union continues to seek a national agreement by applying economic pressure on the carriers without seeking to coerce individual carriers into disrupting the multi-employer bargaining unit and settling on an individual basis." App., at 13a. But, as District Judge Corcoran also correctly held in yet another case, "an effort to pursue single agreements may be taken as undercutting an obligation to conduct national bargaining in good faith." App., at 15a. See, generally, App., at 9a-15a.

(3) The Court "cannot say that a selective strike is inherently incompatible with the objective of reaching a national agreement," and sees "no basis in the evidence for holding that the Union's profession of purpose in seeking a national agreement is devoid of good faith, either because of subjective intent or because the claimed objective of a national agreement is too flimsy or preposterous to be taken seriously, because it contradicts the 'predictable, and probably inevitable' consequence of the Union's action. . . ." App., at 24a. The carriers' evidence that the "predictable, and probably inevitable" consequence of selective strikes is to coerce the struck carriers into bargaining and agreeing on an individual basis, thus destroying national handling, therefore was rejected, at least in part because "the carriers may make a national response to defend against" such selective strikes, including "a national lockout if necessary to defend the principle of national bargaining." App., at 21a-22a. See, generally, App., at 15a-24a.

(4) While Judge Pratt for the District Court "accept[ed] Mr. Luna's testimony that he was not seeking individual agreements with the two struck roads," he agreed with counsel for petitioners that the Act "can't possibly, in my view, be interpreted as permitting a road to be struck and, as you put it, held as hostage for a year or two years while the others hold out," since the "right to use economic force is a right to seek a settlement" rather than to "hit one railroad and destroy it in the way that Mr. Luna is suggesting." App., at 24a-26a. But, the "sound legal approach to the so-called 'hostage' issue is one which requires reflection and, we think, consideration in the light of concrete facts rather than abstraction." App., at 26a. Hence, the District Court "should not have granted a preliminary injunction on this basis," but retains jurisdiction and at some future time "may step in, consider the actual facts, and if appropriate enjoin the continuation of the method or the strike." App., at 29a. The Court of Appeals did not make clear how long a carrier would have to endure a selective strike before the trial court should "step in" and determine on the basis of "actual facts" whether the carrier is an "innocent hostage." And, the Court of Appeals did not specify what action the trial court should take or what standards it should apply if and when that situation arose. Indeed, although its fundamental holding (see item (2) above) seemed to establish that selective strikes which coerce individual bargaining or agreement so as to disrupt national handling are unlawful, even though selective strikes for the purpose of coercing national agreements are lawful, the Court of Appeals stated in this aspect of its opinion that "we are not to be taken as setting forth one way or another the principles governing the legitimacy of a Union's refusal to bargain with a struck

employer who has withdrawn from a multi-employer group" as a result of the union's selective strike. App., at 29a. See, generally, App., at 24a-31a.

(5) Both the "carriers and labor alike have an obligation under the Act to treat with each other through 'responsible conduct of the process of collective bargaining,' " which obligation "continues . . . even after the right of strike or self help comes into existence," and "is not consistent with such actions as a deliberate timing of a strike without prior warning. . . ." Rather, "the continuing duty of responsible bargaining under the Act fairly embraces reasonable notice of a strike or lockout or other self help," and in "a land conversant with the tradition of two weeks notice for a discharge, that would seem a bench mark for reasonable notice." App., at 37a-38a.

A motion by petitioners for a stay of the mandate pending this petition for writ of certiorari was granted (and a motion by respondent to expedite the issuance of the mandate was denied), in an April 15, 1971 order which is set forth in the Appendix at 75a. The stay was conditioned upon the filing of this petition by April 26, 1971, and the Court further provided "that the stay will terminate on the day after the Supreme Court has concluded the 1970 Term, unless the Supreme Court has previously granted certiorari."

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

Stated in terms of this Court's Rule 19(1)(b), the ultimate reason for granting the writ in this case is that the court below "has decided an important question of federal law which has not been, but should be, settled by this court." On several occasions in recent

years, this Court has seen fit to review issues relating to the exercise of self-help in so-called "major" disputes over proposed changes in rates of pay, rules or working conditions pursuant to the Railway Labor Act. *Shore Line* v. *Transportation Union,* 396 U.S. 142 (1969); *Railroad Trainmen* v. *Terminal Co.,* 394 U.S. 369 (1969); *Railway Clerks* v. *Florida E.C.R. Co.,* 384 U.S. 238 (1966); *Locomotive Engrs.* v. *B. & O. R. Co.,* 372 U.S. 284 (1963). See, also, *Chicago and North Western Railway Company* v. *United Transportation Union,* No. 189 (now pending for decision on the merits); *Atlantic C.L.R. Co.* v. *Engineers,* 398 U.S. 281 (1970). The issue as to whether a union may selectively strike or whipsaw the carriers involved in a multi-carrier labor dispute certainly is as important as, and we believe is more important than, the issues in those cases to collective bargaining and the exercise of self-help under the Railway Labor Act.

The railroad industry generally already is in dire financial straits. The bankruptcy of the Penn Central—the nation's largest railroad—is well known, and several smaller carriers also are undergoing reorganization in bankruptcy court. The industry as a whole earned only 1.7% of its net worth in 1970, and 2.3% in 1969, which was far lower than any other major industry and is to be contrasted with a figure of 10.4% for all industry groups in 1969. Hiltz Third Suppl. Aff. ¶ 11. Since labor costs already amount on the average to more than 50% of all railroad operating expenses, a decision that tilts the balance of power even further in favor of labor in railway labor disputes obviously is a matter of the utmost concern.[4] If the de-

[4] The Railway Labor Act also is applicable to the airline industry (45 U.S.C. §§181-183), which is having its own financial difficulties.

cision below should stand, petitioners' prospects of preventing wages from skyrocketing beyond all reasonable limits and of revising obsolete work rules so as to permit the efficient operation necessary if the railroads are to remain competitive while paying reasonable wages will diminish almost to the vanishing point.[5] The sufferers will include not just the railroads and their stockholders, but also the shipping public (including the federal government and other governmental units) and ultimately, we believe, the employees of the railroads.

The dispute underlying this litigation is of great importance in itself, involving as it does most of the nation's railroads and most of their operating employees, as is indicated by the President's exercise of his discretion to create an emergency board to investigate and report upon the dispute and the action of the Congress in enacting P.L. 91-541 (84 Stat. 1407) to extend the *status quo* period so as to permit further bargaining towards a settlement of the dispute prior to any resort to self-help. See pp. 7-9, *supra*. But however that may be, the selective strike issue is not peculiar to this

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[5] In approving the payment by the Penn Central through September of this year of the increased wages provided in the agreements with the three nonoperating unions (see fn. 1, p. 4, *supra*), Judge Fullam warned that the "concept that the railroad must maintain perhaps as many as ten thousand employees that it doesn't need for efficient operation, and not only that it must retain these employees but that they must be replaced as they retire or die, is simply ludicrous, and I think that it should be made clear as early as practicable that this Court is highly unlikely to authorize any payments of further wage increases beyond September unless and until some of these matters are resolved or at least a solution seems very likely in the immediate future." *In re Penn Central Transportation Company*, Bankruptcy No. 70-347 (E.D. Pa.), transcript, March 31, 1971, at 1445-1446.

dispute or to this litigation and has become a pervasive problem.

In the last couple of years, virtually every national dispute between the railroads and one or more of the 16 national railway unions has resulted in threats or efforts by the union to engage in selective or whipsaw strikes. This has already resulted in litigation in a dispute over rules relating to the subcontracting of work with six unions representing the carriers' shopcraft employees,[6] in a general wage and rules dispute with four of those unions,[7] in a dispute over a proposal by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen (now part of the respondent union) once again to require that a fireman be used on almost all locomotives,[8] and in the general wage and rules disputes with three unions representing nonoperating employees that initially were involved in this case (see fn. 1, p. 4, *supra*), as well as in the general wage and rules dispute with the respondent union that now underlies this case. National wage and rules disputes with a number of other unions are currently being handled under the procedures of the Railway Labor Act. And, it is the "judgment" of the Chairman of the National Railway Labor Conference that "if the UTU . . . is permitted to whipsaw the carriers" in the instant dispute, "every other union with which the

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[6] See *Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R.R.* v. *Railway Emp. Dept.*, 301 F. Supp. 603 (D. D.C., 1969).

[7] See *International Ass'n of M. & A.W.* v. *National Ry. Labor Conf.*, 310 F. Supp. 905 (D. D.C., 1970), appeal pending, No. 24,217 (D.C. Cir.).

[8] See *United Transportation Union* v. *Burlington Northern Inc.*, 76 LRRM 2838 (D. D.C., 1971); *Burlington Northern Inc.* v. *United Transportation Union*, 74 LRRM 2599 (D. D.C., 1970).

carriers deal will resort to the same tactics in disputes over wages and other matters that heretofore have been bargained and agreed upon nationally." Hiltz Aff. ¶ 33.

The first stated purpose of the Railway Labor Act is to "avoid any interruption to commerce or to the operation of any carrier engaged therein. . . ." 45 U.S.C. § 151a(1). This Court has recognized that the "major purpose of Congress in passing the Railway Labor Act was 'to provide a machinery to prevent strikes.' "[9] The Court has also recognized, under the Labor-Management Relations Act, that the "Congress refused to interfere with [multi-employer] bargaining because there was cogent evidence that in many industries the multi-employer bargaining basis was a vital factor in the effectuation of the national policy of promoting labor peace through strengthened collective bargaining,"[10] and that an unimpeded "whipsaw strike . . . enjoys an almost inescapable prospect of success" so that the "prospect that the whipsaw strike would succeed in breaking up" multi-employer bargaining is "not at all fanciful."[11]

Yet, as a practical matter under the decision below, a union only needs to state that its selective strikes are intended to coerce the carriers into making a national agreement in order to institute such strikes lawfully, once the procedures of the Act have been exhausted and two-weeks' notice is given, even though such strikes

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[9] *Shore Line* v. *Transportation Union*, 396 U.S. 142, 148, fn. 13 (1969); *Texas & N.O. R. Co.* v. *Ry. Clerks*, 281 U.S. 548, 565 (1930).

[10] *Labor Board* v. *Truck Drivers Union*, 353 U.S. 87, 95 (1957).

[11] *Labor Board* v. *Brown*, 380 U.S. 278, 284-285 (1965).

exert direct pressure upon only one, two or a few of the more than 100 carriers normally involved in a national dispute. And, while the Court of Appeals directed the District Court to retain jurisdiction so as to be in a position to consider the matter after such strikes have actually occurred and have continued for an unspecified period, it did not completely foreclose either the possibility that the struck carriers could lawfully be coerced into withdrawing from national handling and bargaining on an individual basis (thereby destroying multi-employer bargaining) or the possibility that they lawfully could be held "hostage" for months (thereby destroying the struck carriers) because they are powerless to make an agreement settling the dispute (thus terminating the strikes) either nationally or individually. See pp. 13-16, *supra.*

We submit, therefore, that the selective strike issue decided by the court below plainly raises an important question of federal law concerning the proper interpretation and application of the Railway Labor Act. That issue has not been decided by this Court. And, while this is not the appropriate place for a detailed discussion of the merits, we shall indicate briefly in the following discussion some of our reasons for urging that the Court of Appeals erred in its decision. In the course of that discussion, we shall also demonstrate that a collateral issue decided by the court below—concerning the right of petitioners to lock out in response to a selective strike—is in itself an important issue of federal law which this Court has not yet decided and which reinforces our belief that this Court should review the decision below.

Section 2 First of the Act provides that it "shall be the duty of all carriers, their officers, agents, and em-

ployees to exert every reasonable effort to make and maintain agreements concerning rates of pay, rules, and working conditions, and to settle all disputes. . . ." 45 U.S.C. § 152 First. The court below agreed that that duty did not terminate when the procedures of the Act are exhausted. App., at 37a. If anything, good faith efforts to make an agreement settling a dispute are more necessary after the procedures of the Act are exhausted than before, as the only alternative would be for strikes to continue until either the carriers or the union have been destroyed. In continuing to make "every reasonable effort" to settle the dispute, therefore, the union must continue to bargain with the representatives of the carriers involved in the dispute. Section 1 Sixth of the Act expressly authorizes a "group of carriers" to select a common representative to bargain on their behalf (45 U.S.C. § 151 Sixth), Section 2 Second requires that such bargaining take place "in conference between representatives designated . . . by the . . . carriers and by the employees thereof interested in the dispute" (45 U.S.C. § 152 Second), and Section 2 Third provides that "neither party shall in any way interfere with, influence, or coerce the other in its choice of representatives" (45 U.S.C. § 152 Third).

The statute thus authorizes a "group of carriers" to bargain on a multi-employer basis by designating a common representative to bargain on their behalf, requires the union concerned to bargain with that representative, and prohibits the union from interfering with the carriers' election to bargain on a multi-employer basis through that common representative. Indeed, the court below agreed (as did respondent) that multi-employer national handling of the instant dispute

was obligatory under the Act, and the court below further agreed that the rights and obligations of the parties in that regard continue after the procedures of the Act are exhausted. See p. 13, *supra*.

This being so, any actions by a union that "in any way interfere with, influence, or coerce" the exercise by a "group of carriers" of their right to bargain on a multi-employer basis through a common representative over issues in which they have a common interest violate the Act even though the procedures of the Act have been exhausted. And, petitioners' evidence demonstrated that a natural, foreseeable consequence of a selective or whipsaw strike is to exert coercion upon the struck carrier to withdraw from the "group of carriers" and attempt to settle individually, thereby destroying multi-employer bargaining. See pp. 9-11, *supra*. This Court has recognized in cases arising under the Labor-Management Relations Act that a selective or whipsaw srtike does threaten to cause "disintegration" of "the multi-employer bargaining basis," *Labor Board* v. *Truck Drivers Union*, 353 U.S. 87, 97 (1957),[12] and that would appear to be obvious. It is the struck employer, not all of the employers, that is immediately and directly affected by the strike, and thus is pressured to seek an agreement on terms that have been rejected by the group.

While appearing to recognize that selective strikes for the purpose of coercing individual bargaining and agreement violate the Act, the court below relied heavily upon the testimony by respondent's President that the selective strikes threatened by respondent are intended to coerce a national, rather than individual,

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[12] See, also, *Labor Board* v. *Brown*, 380 U.S. 278, 284-285 (1965).

agreements. See pp. 11-12, 14, *supra*. The fundamental error by the lower court in this regard, we believe, was its failure properly to apply the general "common-law rule that a man is held to intend the foreseeable consequence of his conduct," so that "his protestation that he did not intend to encourage or discourage must be unavailing where a natural consequence of his action was such encouragement or discouragement." *Radio Officers* v. *Labor Board*, 347 U.S. 17, 45 (1954). That is so, as *Radio Officers* demonstrates, even though the "natural" or "foreseeable" consequence did not, and indeed could not, occur in the particular case.[13]

The general rule that a person is held to have intended the natural or foreseeable consequences of his conduct has been applied by this Court in other cases arising under the Labor-Management Relations Act.

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[13] One of the cases (*Gaynor*) decided by this Court in its *Radio Officers* opinion involved an employer who increased the wages paid to employees who were members of a union, pursuant to an agreement with the union, but did not give similar increases to non-union employees doing the same work. It was conceded that "the employer acted from self-interest and not to encourage unionism" in refusing to give the wage increase to the non-union employees. Moreover, all of the non-union employees were ineligible for membership in the union (which admitted "only first-born legitimate sons of members"), and all of them had previously been rejected by the union when they applied for membership. 347 U.S., at 35-36. Nevertheless, the employer was held to have intended "to encourage . . . membership" in the union by his wage "discrimination" between union and non-union employees, thereby violating Section 8(a)(3) of the Labor-ManagementRelations Act, since "a natural consequence" of paying higher wages "to union employees doing a job than to non-union employees doing the same job" is the "encouragement of membership in such union," and the employer must be held to have intended that "natural consequence" despite the circumstances of the particular case. 347 U.S., at 46.

See, *e.g., Labor Board* v. *Erie Resistor Corp.*, 373 U.S. 221, 227-228 (1963); *Teamsters Local* v. *Labor Board*, 365 U.S. 667, 675 (1961); *Republic Aviation Corp.* v. *Board*, 324 U.S. 793 (1945), and the explanation thereof in *Radio Officers* v. *Labor Board, supra* at 45-46. Indeed, in *Labor Board* v. *Truck Drivers Union, supra*, this Court upheld the right of the non-struck employers in that case to lockout so as "to preserve the multi-employer bargaining basis from the disintegration threatened by the Union's strike action" against one member of the multi-employer group, 353 U.S., at 97, even though the "facts" in that case "clearly show that the Union strike was not an attempt to withdraw from the multi-employer bargaining unit," and the union had "continued to carry on negotiations with the [multi-employer representative] until an agreement was reached and signed," 353 U.S., at 94, fn. 22.

We submit that these principles should be applied in cases arising under the Railway Labor Act as well as in cases arising under the Labor-Management Relations Act. A union should not be permitted to institute a selective or whipsaw strike that otherwise would be unlawful merely by reason of its "protestation" that it intends thereby to pressure all of the carriers into making a national agreement rather than to pressure the struck carrier into making an individual agreement. The pressure upon the struck carrier is the same regardless of the union's protestations, the absence of such pressure upon the other members of the multi-employer group is the same regardless of the union's protestations, and surely a "natural consequence" of such conduct is to coerce the struck carrier into seeking to make an agreement on its own in order to terminate a strike by a union that has rejected the

terms offered by the group. Indeed, as we have noted, the court below did not foreclose the possibility of such individual bargaining and agreements after the selective strike has continued for an unspecified time, even though the court initially purported to accept the view that the coercion of individual agreements through selective strikes, thereby destroying multi-employer bargaining, would violate the Act. See pp. 15-16, *supra.*

Furthermore, if respondent should refuse to make individual agreements with the selectively struck railroads, even though that should mean that those railroads would be held "hostage" for a year or more, as its President testified, its violation of the Railway Labor Act is emphasized rather than negated, in our opinion. District Judge Pratt was correct in agreeing with the argument that "the right to use economic force is a right to seek a settlement, not a right to hit one railroad and destroy it as Mr. Luna is suggesting." See p. 15, *supra.* It would be highly unreasonable to interpret as permitting such action a statute which has as its primary purpose the avoidance of "any interruption to commerce or to the operation of any carrier engaged therein" (45 U.S.C. §151a (1)), and which requires "every reasonable effort to make and maintain agreements concerning rates of pay, rules, and working conditions, and to settle all disputes . . . , in order to avoid any interruption to commerce or to the operation of any carrier" (45 U.S.C. § 152 First). Such destructive tactics would seem to be at least as abhorrent and equally as unlawful as sitdown strikes. See *Southern S.S. Co.* v. *Labor Board,* 316 U.S. 31, 40-49 (1942); *Labor Board* v. *Fansteel Corp.,* 306 U.S. 240, 252-262 (1939); *National Lab. Rel. Bd.* v. *Marshall Car Wheel & F. Co.,* 218

F.2d 409, 413 (5th Cir., 1955). Striking an employer who is powerless to end the strike by agreement since it cannot make an individual agreement and does not control the multi-employer group so as to make a national agreement would also seem to be equally as unlawful as striking an employer who is powerless to end the strike by agreement since the demanded agreement is prohibited by law. See *Retail Clerks International Ass'n, Local U. No. 1288* v. *N.L.R.B.*, 390 F.2d 858, 862 (D.C. Cir., 1968); *N.L.R.B.* v. *Amalgamated Lithographers of America (Ind.)*, 309 F.2d 31, 42 (9th Cir., 1962), cert. den. 372 U.S. 943 (1963); *International Typographical Union Local 38* v. *N.L.R.B.*, 278 F.2d 6, 12 (1st Cir., 1960), rev'd in part on other grounds, 365 U.S. 705 (1961). The direction by the Court of Appeals that the District Court retain jurisdiction so as to be in a position to "step in, consider the actual facts, and if appropriate enjoin the continuation of the method or the strike," see p. 15, *supra*, may be better than nothing, but hardly resolves the problem particularly since the Court of Appeals did not specify when the District Court should step in, what action it should take, or what standards it should apply.

Finally, we note the view expressed by the court below that petitioners "may make a national response to defend against a selective strike that jeopardizes national bargaining," and thus "could impose a national lockout" in response to petitioners' selective strikes, so that such strikes would not necessarily destroy multi-employer bargaining. App., at 21a-22a. While we agree that petitioners have a right to lockout in response to selective strikes, respondent contended in the court below that a lockout would violate the Inter-

state Commerce Act. If respondent's view in that regard ultimately should be sustained, petitioners could be liable to shippers for enormous damages. Before petitioners are instigated by selective strikes into embarking upon such a hazardous course, the issues concerning the legality of selective strikes and responsive lockouts should be determined definitively by this Court. We note that this Court has considered and upheld the right of unstruck members of a multi-employer group to lockout in response to a strike of a member of the group, under the Labor-Management Relations Act. *Labor Board* v. *Truck Drivers Union,* 353 U.S. 87 (1957); *Labor Board* v. *Brown,* 380 U.S. 278 (1965). Although the right to lockout was upheld in those cases, the NLRB has also held selective or whipsaw strikes to be unlawful in a large number of cases.[14] And despite the views of the court below, it seems obvious to us that the fact that employers have a lawful response to union tactics does not justify forc-

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[14] *Local Union 49 of the Sheet Metal Workers, Etc.,* 122 NLRB 1192 (1959); *General Teamsters Local Union No. 324, Etc.,* 127 NLRB 488 (1960); *Hoisting & Portable Engineers Local 701, Etc.,* 141 NLRB 469 (1963); *Westchester County Executive Committee, Etc.,* 142 NLRB 126 (1963); *Ice Cream, Frozen Custard Employees, Local 717,* 145 NLRB 865 (1964); *Int'l Union of Operating Engineers, Local 825,* 145 NLRB 952 (1964); *Operative Plasterers, Etc., Local No. 2,* 149 NLRB 1264 (1964); *Orange Belt Dist. Council of Painters No. 48, Etc.,* 152 NLRB 1136 (1965); *Painters Local No. 823,* 161 NLRB 620 (1966); *Enterprise Association, Etc.,* 170 NLRB No. 44 (1968); *United Slate, Tile & Composition Roofers, Etc.,* 172 NLRB No. 249 (1968); *Local 964, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners,* 181 NLRB No. 154 (1970). The decision in *Arizona District Council of Carpenters,* 126 NLRB 1110 (1960), relied upon by the court below (App., at 14a) is, we believe, an aberration rather than a currently valid reflection of the views of the NLRB concerning the legality of whipsaw strikes under the Labor-Management Relations Act.

ing them to exercise that response rather than obtaining legal redress and does not legitimatize an otherwise unlawful union tactic.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, this petition for a writ of certiorari should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

No. 71-1183

THE DELAWARE AND HUDSON RAILWAY COMPANY, ET AL.

v.

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, APPELLANT, ET AL.

On Motion for Summary Reversal of Order Granting Preliminary Injunction

Decided March 31, 1971

Messrs. Sheldon E. Bernstein and *Lester P. Schoene,* with whom *Mr. Edward D. Friedman* was on the pleadings, for appellant.

Mr. Francis M. Shea, with whom *Messrs. Richard T. Conway,* and *Ralph J. Moore, Jr.,* were on the pleadings, for appellees.

Before: WRIGHT, LEVENTHAL and WILKEY, *Circuit Judges.*

LEVENTHAL, *Circuit Judge:* This action was begun in 1970 by the plaintiffs, some 170 carriers comprising most of the nation's railroads ("carriers"), against four railway labor organizations, after their current national wage and rules dispute had led to a bargaining impasse. The dispute was settled in 1971 as to the three non-operating unions.[1] Following exhaustion of all the governmental

[1] They are the Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees (BRAC); the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMW); and the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' and Bartenders' International Union (HRE). Together these three unions represent approximately 220,000 railroad employees.

processes for resolution of major disputes contemplated by the Railway Labor Act (Act), the carriers filed a supplemental complaint against the United Transportation Union (hereafter Union, or UTU).[2] They sought an injunction against the Union's conducting any selective strike against a few, or some, or less than all the carriers. The District Court granted the carriers' motion and issued a preliminary injunction enjoining the Union from calling any selective strikes against the Burlington Northern, Inc. or Seaboard Coast Line Railroad, or against fewer than all the plaintiff carriers. We conclude that the legal premise underlying the District Court's action was in error. We reverse the order granting the preliminary injunction. On remand the District Court will maintain continuing jurisdiction of the cause to consider any issues, and requests for relief, that may develop as to the legality of actions of the Union or the carriers in the conduct of strikes and countermeasures.

I. History of the Disputes and Threatened Strike

On October 20, 1969,[3] the Union served each of the carriers with identical notices pursuant to Section 6 of the Act, 45 U.S.C. § 156, proposing changes in existing national agreements relating to pay. On November 7, the carriers served the Union with a notice containing counter-proposals as to work rules to be bargained about concurrently. On November 20, the Union served notices proposing various wage and fringe benefit adjustments. The Union's notices requested each of the carriers served

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[2] The United Transportation Union was organized January 1, 1968, as the merger of four operating unions, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Fireman & Enginemen (BLFE), the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen (BRT), the Order of Railroad Conductors and Brakemen (ORCB), and the Switchmen's Union of North America. It represents about 180,000 employees.

[3] The statement that action was taken "on" a certain date includes action taken "on or about" that date.

to advise each carrier that "it is requested that you join with other railroad companies in authorizing a national conference committee to represent you in dealing with the subject."

The parties followed established practice and authorized the dispute to be handled by their national bargaining representatives, which in the case of the carriers meant the National Railway Labor Conference (comprised of three regional Carriers' Conference committees),[4] which represents over 90% of the nation's Class I line-haul rail carriers and terminal railroads.

Multi-carrier bargaining by the national representatives of the carriers began March 17, 1970, and continued from time to time thereafter until April 15, 1970, when the conferences were terminated. On April 16, 1970, the carriers applied pursuant to § 5 First of the Act, 45 U.S.C. § 155 First, for the mediatory services of the National Mediation Board ("Board") in connection with all three Section 6 notices referred to above. The same day the Union applied for the Board's services in connection with its notice of October 20 and the carriers' counter-notice of November 7, 1969.

The Board docketed the dispute arising out of the two initial notices in its Case A-8830 on May 19, 1970, and on June 24, incorporated in that docket the dispute arising out of the Union notice served November 20. Mediation commenced on June 30, 1970. The mediation was conducted between the national bargaining representative of the parties on a multi-carrier basis. It failed to produce a settlement. On August 3, in accordance with § 5 First of the Act the Board requested the parties to submit the dispute created by the three Section 6 notices to arbitration

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[4] The Eastern Carriers' Conference Committee, the Southeastern Carriers' Conference Committee, and the Western Carriers' Conference Committee.

pursuant to Sections 7 and 8 of the Act. On August 6 the carriers accepted the proffer of arbitration but the Union declined the proffer. Accordingly, on August 10, 1970, the Board notified the parties that its mediatory efforts had failed and it was that day terminating its services.

The UTU and the three non-operating unions announced their intention to strike the carriers on September 10, 1970. The parties were required by § 5 First to maintain the status quo in their dispute for 30 days after the Board terminated its services. Their national bargaining representatives met during this 30-day period in an attempt to compose their differences. No agreement was reached. While under the Act the parties became free as of September 10, 1970, to exercise the kind of self help authorized by the Act, they agreed to extend the status quo through September 14, and to engage in additional negotiations during that period, at the request of and with the assistance of officials of the Board and the Department of Labor.

These efforts failed. On September 15, 1970, three of the Nation's railroads were struck,—the Baltimore and Ohio, the Chesapeake and Ohio and the Southern Pacific. Meanwhile, on September 14 the carriers filed their complaint in the case now before us. At 11:40 p.m. on September 14 District Judge Corcoran issued a temporary restraining order conditioned on a small cash undertaking, enjoining defendants from calling selective strikes on less than all the plaintiff carriers. The motion for preliminary injunction was initially set for September 23. During the course of September 15, the District Court issued an order to show cause why coercive civil contempt fines should not be imposed upon the unions if the strikes were continued. The strikes were terminated and the order to show cause was duly vacated on motion of the carriers. On September 23, the defendant unions filed a motion for prompt trial, which was denied by Judge Pratt by a fiat order entered that day.

Meanwhile the President appointed Emergency Board No. 178, created by Executive Orders 11558 and 11559, issued September 18. Section 10 of the Act requires parties to a major dispute to maintain the status quo until an emergency board reports its recommendations to the President (within 30 days after its creation) and for 30 days after such report is made. The Board convened on September 24, and held public hearings September 30 through October 17, 1970. During the course of the hearings, the parties agreed to request the President to extend, until November 10, 1970, the period in which the Board was to submit its Report. Such extensions for Board consideration have been agreed upon for past disputes. The President granted this request.

Board No. 178 rendered its Report on November 9, 1970.[5] The carriers accepted its recommendations for national agreements settling the disputes. The unions rejected those recommendations. Further national bargaining failed to settle the dispute within [illegible] following the issuance of the report.

At 2:10 a.m. on December 10, 1970, the President signed P.L. 91-541. This put into effect the wage increases recommended by Board 178 for adoption in 1970 (see note 5), and extended the status quo requirement of Section 10 of the Act so as to provide that no other changes could be made by the parties, except by agreement, prior to 12:01 a.m., March 1, 1971.

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[5] The Report of Emergency Board 178 appears in *Railway Labor-Management Dispute*, December 1970, Hearing before the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare on S.J.Res. 246, Dec. 9, 1970 (91 Cong. 2d Sess.) p. 133. The Board recommended certain wage increases, including a 5% increase retroactive to January 1, 1970, and a 32¢ per hour increase effective November 1, 1970. As to work rules the Board made a number of recommendations which reflected a conclusion of merit in the carriers' position.

It appears that the unions commenced striking the carriers nationally as of 12:01 a.m. on December 10. At 3:17 a.m. the District Court entered an order temporarily restraining such strikes. No contention is made that UTU violated this order.

Following the enactment of P.L. 91-541 further national bargaining ensued and the disputes with the three non-operating unions were settled by national agreements prior to March 1, 1971, in accordance with the recommendations of Emergency Board No. 178.

The carriers and UTU did not reach an agreement. On March 7, the carriers filed motions for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction, stating that they had been made aware that the UTU intended to strike the Burlington Northern and Seaboard Coast Line as of 12:01 a.m. on March 8, and requesting an order prohibiting such selective strikes. When counsel appeared before District Judge Corcoran, Judge Pratt not being available, on the afternoon of Sunday, March 7, Union counsel conceded that strikes were scheduled to commence at midnight against these two carriers. It subsequently developed that the UTU had sent the President a letter dated March 6, with copies to three Cabinet members and two members of Congress, advising that it was "calling a peaceful withdrawal from service of all its members" on those two roads on March 8. In any event, in the course of the conference on March 7, the Union counsel, after telephoning the president of UTU, assured Judge Corcoran that no carrier would be struck prior to 2:00 p.m. on March 11, 1971. Accordingly the Judge did not issue a temporary restraining order. On March 10, 1971, after an evidentiary hearing held that day, District Judge Pratt issued a preliminary injunction against selective strikes by the UTU. That Union moved in this court for summary reversal of that order.

II. Discussion of Substantive Legal Issues

Disposition of this appeal requires discussion of substantive legal issues and principles, and we focus on these before turning to such equitable considerations as the propriety of relief in the light of threatened injury and the public interest, and to procedure appropriate for this litigation.

1. The purpose and scheme of the Railway Labor Act is to "provide a machinery to prevent strikes" and the resulting interruptions of interstate commerce.[6] As to minor disputes the Act provides for compulsory arbitration. As to major disputes, like the pay and work rules disputes before the court, the Act's machinery operates not to prohibit strikes but to delay them in order to assure ample opportunity for negotiation and mediation. When the Act was drafted both railroads and unions were bitterly opposed to compulsory arbitration and the settlement of major disputes was left to a process of non-compulsory adjustment.[7] What was provided was an elaborate process, specified in detail, consisting of a number of stages which the parties must explore before the right of self help may be asserted.[8]

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[6] Texas & N.O.R.R. Co. v. Railway Clerks, 281 U.S. 548, 565 (1930).

[7] Detroit & Toledo Shore Line R.R. v. United Transportation Union, 396 U.S. 142, 148 (1969).

[8] These were concisely stated in Railroad Trainmen v. Terminal Co., 394 U.S. 369, 378 (1969):

> The Act provides a detailed framework to facilitate the voluntary settlement of major disputes. A party desiring to effect a change of rates of pay, rules, or working conditions must give advance written notice. § 6. The parties must confer, § 2 Second, and if conference fails to resolve the dispute, either or both may invoke the services of the National Mediation Board, whcih may also proffer its services *sua sponte* if it finds a labor emergency to exist. § 5 First. If mediation fails, the Board must endeavor to induce the parties

The parties are obligated to refrain from self help while the Act's procedures are being pursued. This obligation of restraint endures although these procedures "are purposely long and drawn out, based on the hope that reason and practical considerations will provide in time an agreement that resolves the dispute."[9] "The Act's status quo requirement is central to its design." "A final and crucial aspect of the Act [is] the power given to the parties and to representatives of the public to make the exhaustion of the Act's remedies an almost interminable process."[10] The role of the Government officials is considered so sensitive and critical that ordinary doctrines permitting judicial action on a complaint of arbitrary delay and protraction are so drastically restricted that court relief from continuation of the process will be available, if at all, only in a most extraordinary situation bordering on patent official bad faith.[11]

While the procedures of the Act are "almost interminable" the process is not completely "interminable." It does some time come to an end. Such a time has been reached in the situation before us.

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to submit the controversy to binding arbitration, which can take place, however, only if both consent. §§ 5 First, 7. If arbitration is rejected and the dispute threatens "substantially to interrupt interstate commerce to a degree such as to deprive any section of the country of essential transportation service, the Mediation Board shall notify the President," who may create an emergency board to investigate and report on the dispute. § 10. While the dispute is working its way through these stages, neither party may unilaterally alter the *status quo*. §§ 2 Seventh, 5 First, 6, 10.

[9] Railway Clerks v. Florida E.C.Ry., 384 U.S. 238, 346 (1966).

[10] Detroit & Toledo Shore Line R.R. v. UTU, *supra*, 396 U.S. at 150, and 149.

[11] Int'l Assn. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers v. National Mediation Board [National Airlines], 138 U.S.App.D.C. 96, 425 F.2d 527 (1970).

The UTU and carriers have not only pursued the procedures required by law but have also agreed to provide extra time at significant junctures for these processes beyond that required by law, for the periods September 10-14, 1970, and October 18-November 10, 1970. Both Union and carriers now have authority in law, under present law, to resort to the ultimate right of self help.[12]

2. The right of self help embraces, as to the unions, the right to strike. This is conceded by the carriers but they say that the right to strike must be exercised solely by a strike called against all the carriers of the nation when national handling and bargaining is obligatory under the Act.

The carriers' legal position is bottomed on the principles set forth in the so-called *Alton* opinion of Judge Corcoran, *Int'l Ass'n of Machinists & Aerospace Workers* v. *National Railway Labor Conference,* 310 F. Supp. 905 (D.D.C. 1970), appeal pending No. 24,217 (D.C. Cir.).

In *Alton* Judge Corcoran was concerned with a labor dispute between the Class I railroad carriers and the four shopcraft unions. The carriers reached an understanding with three of the unions but an agreement was precluded when one of the unions, the Sheet Metal Workers, balked at a particular work rule acceptable to the others. The shopcraft unions then struck the Union Pacific Railroad at 12:01 a.m. on January 31, 1970. The carriers then announced a nationwide cessation of operations to begin

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[12] Railroad Trainmen v. Terminal Co., supra, 394 U.S. at 378:

> Nowhere does the text of the Railway Labor Act specify what is to take place once these procedures have been exhausted without yielding resolution of the dispute. Implicit in the statutory scheme, however, is the ultimate right of the disputants to resort to self-help—"the inevitable alternative in a statutory scheme which deliberately denies the final power to compel arbitration." *Florida E. C. R. Co.* v. *Railroad Trainmen*, 336 F.2d 172, 181 (1964).

at 10:00 p.m. on January 31, 1970. The unions sought to restrain the lockout, the carriers sought to enjoin the strike. Temporary restraining orders were granted in both actions.

In the *Alton* opinion, Judge Corcoran granted a preliminary injunction to the carriers against the strike. We review his reasoning:

(a) National handling of carrier-union disputes, while not expressly compelled in the Act, is legal and indeed may be obligatory in some circumstances, depending on the issues involved and the "practical appropriateness of mass bargaining" for those issues and the "historical experience in handling any similar national movements." *Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen* v. *Atlantic Coast Line R. Co.*, 127 U.S.App.D.C. 298, 302, 383 F.2d 225, 229 (1967).

We note that Judge Corcoran correctly understood the import and implication of our *Atlantic Coast Line* ruling.

(b) National handling was appropriate and obligatory as to the disputes involved in the *Alton* case.

We assume for present purposes that this conclusion of Judge Corcoran was likewise sound.

(c) In the relevant portion of the opinion Judge Corcoran stated, relying on Section 2 First and Section 2 Second of the Act (see 310 F. Supp. at 912):

> "The duty laid out in Section 2 First is 'the heart of the Railway Labor Act.' Railroad Trainmen v. Terminal Co., *supra*, 394 U.S. at 377-378, 89 S.Ct. at 1115. By initiating and negotiating the dispute on an obligatory national basis and then striking the carriers on an individual basis it seems clear that the unions have violated their duty to 'exert every reasonable effort to make * * * agreements * * * and settle disputes.' Having begun on a national level, it is incumbent upon the parties to continue to deal on a

> national level even after the procedures of the Railway Labor Act have been exhausted. To act otherwise would take on the character of bad faith bargaining."

While there is general language that may be abstracted as indicating that any strike against a single employer of a national bargaining group is illegal, that language must be discounted since the decision was not concerned with the problem now before us. *Detroit & Toledo Shore Line R. Co.* v. *UTU,* 396 U.S. 142, 156 (1969). On the contrary, perceptive and careful study of the matter reveals that the core of Judge Corcoran's opinion rests on his determination that the Railway Labor Act is properly construed in present context with the same approach as that used for the National Labor Relations Act, and that the latter has been construed as holding that the duty to bargain collectively on a multi-employer level is violated when a union "attempts to force individual agreements" by striking individual members.

The salient legal principle is made clear by Judge Corcoran's reference to and reliance on *Int'l Union of Operating Engineers, Local 825,* 145 NLRB 952 (1964). In that case the Board's key findings state that the Union violated § 8(b) (1) and (3) of the National Labor Relations Act "by threatening to strike individual members of the Association in order to force them to withdraw bargaining authority from the Association 'and to enter into individual contracts with the [Union at a time when] it was obligated to bargain for an associationwide agreement with the [Association].' * * * There can be no doubt that the Union might lawfully have struck the members of the Association in order to achieve its legal objectives, or for breaking a legal stalemate or impasse in its negotiations with the Association, but it is equally clear and well settled that it could not lawfully strike or otherwise coerce the Association employer-members with an object of causing them to break off from the Association and execute individual contracts with the Union."

3. This case presents a problem concerning selective strikes not decided in *Alton.*

The Union presents a position and comes forward in support of its claim [13] with direct testimony of its president, Charles Luna (set forth in Appendix A), that it agrees and indeed insists that the underlying dispute is such that national handling is appropriate and obligatory.[14] What the Union asserts is that the selective strike is lawful because, as appears from the express testimony of Mr. Luna, the strike called by the UTU against the Seaboard and Burlington was not in derogation of national handling but was for the purpose of putting economic pressure on the carriers to enter into a national agreement, a contract better for the workers than the one the carriers were ready to accept in the bargaining carried on in the absence of such economic pressure.

The District Court's ruling as to the carrier's likelihood of success on the merits, appearing in oral comments shortly after hearing argument on the motion (see Appendix B), embraced the legal premise that even accepting the Union's purpose as set forth in Mr. Luna's testimony, the strike was unlawful.[15]

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[13] We may assume for present purposes that the Union, as the party with the evidence available, has the initial burden of coming forward with evidence that the purpose of a selective strike following multi-employer bargaining was other than that of reaching individual agreements with some of the struck employers.

[14] Mr. Luna was emphatic that the wage claim be handled nationally. From the decision of Board 178 it appears the Union would have disclaimed national handling for the work rule issues presented by the carriers' notices taken by themselves. But these work rules were a sufficiently germane counterproposal to require handling at the same time and manner as the wage issue. We understand Union counsel to concede that under the circumstances the Union was obligated to bargain on a national basis as to the work rule changes proposed in the carriers' counterproposal.

[15] The ruling does not contain these express words, but that is its fair import.

In our view the litigation before us is properly governed by the legal conclusion that when collective bargaining on a national handling basis has come to an impasse and all procedures of the Railway Labor Act have been exhausted, it is not unlawful for the Union to call a strike against some or a few of the carriers in order to put pressure on the railroads to reach a national multi-employer agreement.

This was the legal conclusion set forth in the opinion of the District Court, issued by Judge Parker on March 8, 1971, in reaching a disposition on the merits of another case, between the same parties, involving firemen manning. *United Transportation Union* v. *Burlington Northern Inc., et al,* Civil Action No. 2183-70, opinion attached as Appendix C. This opinion announced the granting of UTU's request for a summary judgment declaring its right to strike selectively for the purpose of exerting economic pressure to reach a national agreement, and the denial of carrier's request for an injunction against selective strikes. The core of the decision is reflected in the declaratory judgment subsequently issued by the court:

> 2. That under the Railway Labor Act once the statutory procedures have been exhausted in good faith without agreement being reached upon a union bargaining notice whose national handling is obligatory and negotiations are thus legally at an impasse, a selective strike action then becomes a legitimate economic tool which the union can exert against the carriers involved in the national handling negotiations so long as the union continues to seek a national agreement by applying economic pressure on the carriers without seeking to coerce individual carriers into disrupting the multi-employer bargaining unit and settling on an individual basis.

We do not prejudge a case that is not before us, and we are not to be taken as holding that Judge Parker

acted correctly in either the granting or denial of relief in the matter before him. We cannot avoid, however, appraisal of the substantive rule of law applicable to the case before us, and we find our views as to the state of the law congruent with those voiced in Judge Parker's opinion.

We intend no ruling on the Union's contention that principles of collateral estoppel precluded Judge Pratt from applying to the same parties a legal principle different from that applied by Judge Parker. We deem the public interest to warrant this court's addressing itself to the proper substantive rule on the merits.

Judge Parker's ruling is also in accord with the rulings under the National Labor Relations Act which, as Judge Corcoran noted in *Alton,* are material though not decisive, in defining duties under the Railway Labor Act. In *Arizona District Council of Carpenters,* 126 NLRB 1110, 45 LRRM 1448 (1960), it was held that the National Labor Relations Act does not prohibit a strike against some members of a multi-employer bargaining unit, begun after bargaining resulted in impasse, when the strike was not for the purpose of concluding individual agreements with the struck contractors but to put pressure toward an Association agreement. The Board rejected the contention of the General Counsel that the economic pressure on the members struck would have a natural tendency to cause them to withdraw from the multi-employer unit, and that therefore a partial strike against a multi-employer unit is a per se violation of the Act. The General Counsel's subsequent rulings accept this approach.[16]

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[16] General Counsel Ruling No. S R-1994, 50 LRRM 1181 (1962). General Counsel refused to issue complaint on charge of employer association that union, during bargaining impasse, engaged in strike against employers who were members of bargaining committee "since evidence does not contradict union's assertion that selection of struck employers stemmed solely from union's desire to exert greatest economic pressure without putting all its members on strike."

We are not controlled by these citations as binding precedent. Their reasoning, however, is persuasive. The Railway Labor Act defers and delays, but in the last analysis it does not deny, a Union's right to call a strike. That right of self help has been reached in the case before us. The courts are not free to terminate or qualify that right, except in pursuance of authority granted by Congress. No such authority appears in the wording of the Railway Labor Act. Any doctrine that the right to strike may be limited by implication must be carefully confined. The Norris-LaGuardia Act has withdrawn the power of the Federal courts to issue injunctions in labor disputes. That prohibition is subject to an overriding doctrine permitting the issuance of an injunctive order in order to enforce compliance with the requirements of the Railway Labor Act.[17] The obligation to bargain collectively may fairly comprehend a duty to bargain on a national handling basis, and to seek to reach national agreement. But the Union has bargained on a national basis, and it seeks to reach a national agreement. It now has the right to strike and to use economic pressure so long as it does not violate its obligation to continue to bargain collectively. As *Alton* points out the duty is to bargain in good faith, which means an absence of bad faith, and an effort to pursue single agreements may be taken as undercutting an obligation to conduct national bargaining in good faith. But an effort to pursue a national agreement by increasing the use of non-violent economic pressure is subject to no such condemnation.

4. Judge Pratt held that the Act precluded the Union from calling a strike on the two carriers because, by its own account, it was not seeking to reach an agreement

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[17] Brotherhood of R. Trainmen v. Chicago R. & I.R.Co., 353 U.S. 30, 39-42 (1957); Virginian Ry.Co. v. System Federation No. 40, 300 U.S. 515, 563 (1937); Brotherhood of Loc. Fire. Eng. v. Bangor & Aroostook R. Co., 127 U.S. App. D.C. 23, 36, 380 F.2d 570, 583 (1967).

with those carriers and indeed stated it would decline to consider an agreement by those companies to end the strike on terms acceptable to the Union. In point 5 we consider this theory. For a clear picture of the shape of the controversy before us we interject to take account of the quite different, almost diametric, position that the carriers put forward in their motion papers in District Court, and reiterate on appeal as an alternative argument available for affirmance of the injunction.

The carriers begin with the premise that as to this dispute they have a continuing right to bargain and agree as a group through joint national representatives, and that the Union has a reciprocal obligation to respect that right. We do not understand the Union to contest this position and in any event we accept it.

The carrier's conclusion that the Union's strike against two roads is a violation of the carriers' group right to bargain as a group may be presented in capsule form by quoting this sentence from their moving papers:[18]

> "The foreseeable effect of such strikes—unless enjoined by the Court or countered by a lockout—is to coerce the struck carriers into withdrawing from multi-carrier national handling of the dispute and to seek to make the best individual agreements that they can with the UTU through their respective officials."

The carriers sought to obviate any Union profession that its purpose was to continue national bargaining with the assertion that the foreseeable consequence of the selective strike is to coerce the struck carriers to withdraw

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[18] Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of Motion for a Preliminary Injunction Against the Defendant United Transportation Union, p. 7.

from national handling and that the Union must be held to intend the foreseeable consequences of its conduct.[19]

We think it useful to present at length the contention as renewed in the response filed by the carriers on appeal:[20]

> "[E]ven under Judge Parker's view of the law a selective strike violates the Railway Labor Act if it would 'coerce individual carriers into deserting the multi-employer bargaining unit and settling on an

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[19] Plaintiff's Memorandum cited note 18, at p. 17:

"[T]he carriers' affidavits demonstrate that a foreseeable consequence of such whipsaw strikes is to coerce the struck carriers to withdraw from national handling and settle the dispute as best they can on an individual basis. As the Supreme Court has recognized, an unimpeded 'whipsaw strike . . . enjoys an almost inescapable prospect of success' and the 'prospect that the whipsaw strike would succeed in breaking up the employer association' is 'not at all fanciful. . . .' *Labor Board* v. *Brown*, 380 U.S. 278, 284-285 (1965). See, also, *Labor Board* v. *Truck Drivers Union*, 353 U.S. 87 (1957), . . . The general rule 'that a man is held to intend the foreseeable consequences of his conduct' is, of course, applicable in labor cases. *Radio Officers* v. *Labor Board*, 347 U.S. 17, 45 (1954). See, *e.g.*, *Labor Board* v. *Erie Resistor Corp.*, 373 U.S. 221, 227-228 (1963); *Teamsters Local* v. *Labor Board*, 365 U.S. 667, 675 (1961). Thus, regardless of any professions that the UTU may make concerning its intent or purpose to continue bargaining nationally for a national agreement, its conduct in whipsawing the carriers under the circumstances of this case will have the foreseeable effect—and therefore an intent or purpose—of coercing individual agreements so as to violate the Railway Labor Act as interpreted by Judge Parker in the *Burlington Northern* case."

In this and other excerpts we have omitted citations and cross-references which we consider distracting and of no present consequence.

[20] Appellees' Response to Appellant's Motion for Immediate Summary Reversal of Order Below Granting Preliminary Injunction, pp. 6-8.

individual basis.' And, there is extensive evidence in the record that whipsaw strikes in the circumstances of this cause would force the struck carriers to seek to withdraw from national handling of the dispute and to make the best individual agreement that they can, however unreasonable or extravagant. We refer the Court particularly to paragraphs 31-33 of the Affidavit of John P. Hiltz, Jr., paragraphs 8-21 of the Third Supplemental Affidavit of John P. Hiltz, Jr., and the Affidavits of W. Graham Claytor, Jr., W. Thomas Rice and Thomas C. DeButts.

"As that evidence demonstrates, the railroads are particularly vulnerable to strikes in view of their precarious financial condition; the fact that they are a service industry which cannot stockpile in preparation for a strike or later make up for losses in production, so that traffic diverted to another railroad or to another mode of transportation is lost forever; the fact that customers who are forced by a strike to arrange other methods of transportation often do not resume using the struck railroad (or do so to a much lesser extent) once the strike is ended; the fact that the rates charged by railroads cannot be increased without approval of the ICC (which often involves extensive delays); and various other considerations. The railroad unions, on the other hand, are in an unusually strong position. Not only do the employees represented by non-striking unions almost invariably refuse to cross the picket lines established by the striking unions so as to make continued operation in the face of a strike largely impossible, but railroad employees—unlike those in any other industry—are paid unemployment benefits while engaged in a lawful strike (as are the employees who refuse to cross picket lines). Those benefits are paid from a fund made up entirely from contributions by

the railroads alone, they are tax free, and they are substantial (usually $12.70 per day). Thus, in effect the railroads are compelled to subsidize strikes against themselves. Moreover, the unions can and do pay additional strike benefits to striking members from funds contributed by the union's members on all carriers, so that there is almost no economic pressure upon the striking employees to return to work for anything other than a capitulation to their utmost demands.

"In short, where one railroad is forced to stand out alone against the full force of a national union while its traffic is being diverted to competing railroads, among others, it cannot stand out for more than a few days at most. It cannot itself bring about a national agreement, since the multi-employer bargaining agent (here the National Railway Labor Conference) must reflect the views of the majority of its members involved in the dispute (some 170 in all in this dispute) and the majority cannot be expected to accept an agreement they deem to be entirely unreasonable in order to relieve the pressure upon the struck railroad. Thus, the foreseeable effect of a whipsaw or selective strike is to coerce the struck carrier to seek to withdraw from national handling and to enter into an individual agreement on whatever terms it can obtain. And . . . the general rule 'that a man is held to intend the foreseeable consequences of his own conduct' is applicable to labor disputes."

This contention is bottomed on the statements in the carriers' affidavits that in view of the inability of a single carrier or a few carriers to stand out alone against the power of a national union the foreseeable and "indeed the almost inevitable consequence" of permitting a selective strike, was that the struck carriers would beg for

a separate peace, resulting in the destruction of their multi-employer bargaining unit.[21]

As we understand Judge Pratt's opinion he proceeded on a different theory on the merits. But we do not stand on technicality and instead consider whether the carriers have a case so strong that we can and should accept the contention as renewed on appeal. Our consideration leads us, instead, to the conclusion that there are grave difficulties with the carriers' contention.

First, we note that the ultimate issue is not what the carriers thought would happen but the Union's good faith.

Second, is the consideration that the carriers' "almost inevitable consequence" doctrine, if accepted, destroys the possibility of any meaning for Judge Parker's ruling that the law permits a good faith selective strike to exert pressure in order to reach a national agreement, provided there is no coercion of individual carriers into deserting

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[21] Hiltz third supplemental affidavit paragraph 3; Claytor affidavit paragraph 2. The salient paragraph 16 of Mr. Hiltz' affidavit sets forth:

> "16. For many such reasons, individual railroads are extremely vulnerable to strikes, while the employees are cushioned from the financial hardship that is generally the price of striking. The consequence of the situations is that most railroads simply cannot hold out for any time at all against an individual strike. The National Railway Labor Conference ("NRLC") cannot relieve the pressure on a whipsawed carrier by entering into an agreement on terms deemed by the majority of the industry to be unreasonable, however, because the NRLC is bound to act in accordance with the desires of the majority of the members of the multi-employer bargaining unit. As a result, the foreseeable, predictable, and probably inevitable, consequence of a whipsaw strike is that unless the railroads maintain a united front by locking out all their employees and thus shutting down throughout the country, the whipsawed carrier will be compelled to sue for a separate peace—to beg for a separate agreement with the striking union."

the multi-employer bargaining unit and settling on an individual basis. Yet in the *Burlington* opinion Judge Parker not only found that there was no evidence to negative the conclusion that the UTU had bargained in good faith on a national basis, but also took note that during the past twenty years there were a number of instances when the railroad union had exercised the right to individual or selective strikes even though the underlying dispute was the subject of national handling, including the 1950 strike against eight carriers which led to the National Diesel Agreement of May 17, 1950.

Third, we observe that the carriers' affidavits stress what they find is support in history for their conclusions, a support bottomed on the selective strikes by the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, beginning in 1968, over the "crew consist" issue. These resulted in a succession of capitulations and individual agreements by individual railroads after strikes of but a few days, resulting in a reversal of the reductions in crew size authorized by the Award of Arbitration Board No. 282. But in that case the Union was avowedly seeking individual agreements, in the wake of this court's 1967 decision in the *Atlantic Coast Line* case, cited above, which held that "crew consist" was not an issue on which there was an obligation of national handling. And so when Mr. Claytor was called to testify on the subject of his affidavit, he conceded that since the crew consist issue was not being handled nationally "the parallel is not pertinent." (Tr. 30).

Fourth, the fact that the present dispute involves a matter subject to national handling means that the carriers may make a national response to defend against a selective strike that jeopardizes national bargaining. At the very least they could introduce unilaterally on a national basis the work rules they proposed in their Section 6 counteroffer. And they could impose a national

lockout if necessary to defend the principle of national bargaining.[22]

This basic point—that the carriers can take such national action as is needed to defend against the breakdown of national bargaining—is completely omitted from the carrier affidavits, except perhaps for the oblique reference in the affidavit (see note 21) that a selective

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[22] In Brotherhood of Railway & S.S. Clerks v. Florida East Coast Ry., 384 U.S. 238 (1966), the Court held that after a strike occurs the combination of the carrier's right of self help and duty to operate permits unilateral changes by the carrier even without following the Act's lengthy course for negotiation and mediation.

In the present controversy the carriers had a right under the Act to institute unilaterally the work rule changes they proposed in Section 6 notices, and, in the event of a refusal by the workers to work under those rules, the right to a lockout.

The Court upheld the right of the members of an employers' association as a defense to a strike against one of their members, which imperiled the employers' common interest in bargaining on a group basis, to take action to preserve the multi-employer bargaining basis from the disintegration threatened by the Union's action by closing their plants and locking out their employees until the strike was terminated. NLRB v. Truck Drivers Union, 353 U.S. 87 (1957).

In NLRB v. Brown Food Store, 380 U.S. 278 (1965) the Court held that the employers' right of lockout following a "whipsaw" strike against one member of a multi-employer bargaining group included the right, when the struck employer continued business with temporary replacements, to combine the lockout of regular employees with the hiring of temporary replacements to continue operations. The Court held "this was a measure reasonably adapted to the achievement of a legitimate end—preserving the integrity of the multi-employer bargaining unit," with comparatively slight harm to employee rights, and was lawful in the absence of a finding of improper subjective intent to avoid (multi-employer) bargaining with the union. It reversed the Board's approach as resting on an erroneous legal foundation.

Although the *Florida East Coast Railway* case, *supra*, points out that common carriers have a particular and statutory duty to maintain public service the Court explicitly noted it was not saying that

strike means a breakdown of national bargaining unless there is a national lockout.

Fifth, while counsel for the carriers purports to deride the notion that Mr. Luna could conceive that a selective strike could put economic pressure on a national group, in the absence of some finding based on demeanor we see nothing so inherently improbable in Mr. Luna's testimony as to compel a conclusion of bad faith. He felt the strikes would put pressure on the struck roads to tell their representatives on the national group to settle the issue (Tr. 74). We note that Mr. T. C. DeButts, vice president labor relations, Burlington Northern Inc. is a member of the Western Carriers' Conference Committee, and Mr. C. E. Mervine, vice president of Seaboard Coast Line is a member of the Northeastern Carriers' Conference Committee. The struck roads would presumably not be devoid of influence in the National Conference. And

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the duty to operate is absolute, and emphasized that the carrier owes the public "reasonable efforts" to maintain public service even when beset by labor management controversies.

In *Alton* Judge Corcoran held that the carriers' threat of a lockout to be effective some hours after the strike did not negative the "clean hands" required for them to sue to enjoin the strike.

P.L. 91-541 was a joint resolution to provide for a temporary prohibition of strikes or lockouts and the legislative history sets forth that its passage "is necessary to bar railroad strikes or lockouts" until March 1, 1971. H.R. Rep. No. 91-1686, 91st Cong., 2d Sess. 1 (1970).

Even assuming a carriers' lockout might be illegal, the doctrine of Brotherhood of R. Trainmen v. Toledo, P. & W. R. Co., 321 U.S. 50 (1944) would preclude the UTU from seeking an injunction since the Union's refusal to accept arbitration precluded satisfaction of the "clean hands" requirement of Section 8 of the Act.

It may be that the import of the *Florida East Coast Ry.* decision is that, at least in case of doubt, carriers should apply to the court for the authorization to institute lockouts. This could be sought during the interval assured by our ruling requiring reasonable notice by a Union in advance of a strike.

he felt that without some economic pressure the carriers would be rigid in avoiding further bargaining.

There would also be pressure on the non-struck roads impelling toward a national agreement, including the need to make contributions to the mutual plan to compensate the struck roads,—a point that surfaced at oral argument before this Court.

Sixth, we cannot say that a selective strike is inherently incompatible with the objective of reaching a national agreement. Nor can we reject as irrelevant to good faith the position implicit in Mr. Luna's testimony that a national strike would be unavailing to the Union as a means of obtaining national agreement since in all likelihood the carriers would instead seek, and obtain from the legislature, a form of compulsory arbitration. On the other hand future arbitrary positions and tactics of the UTU might not only jettison all hope of agreement and precipitate a national lockout by the carriers (see note 32) and the compulsory arbitration dreaded by the Union, but might undercut the assumption of Union good faith underlying our opinion.

We are not to be misunderstood as making a forecast concerning any or all of these broad considerations. What we do say is that we see no basis in the evidence for holding that the Union's profession of purpose in seeking a national agreement is devoid of good faith, either because of subjective intent or because the claimed objective of a national agreement is too flimsy or preposterous to be taken seriously, because it contradicts the "predictable, and probably inevitable" consequence of the Union's action (see note 21).

5. In pointing out the difficulties involved in making a finding of Union bad faith, we have also provided perspective for Judge Pratt's ruling. He sought to obviate those difficulties by accepting Mr. Luna's testimony that he was not seeking individual agreements with the two

struck roads. It was elicited that if the Union struck Seaboard Coast Line there would be no way to settle that strike except on a national basis. Because of its significance the pertinent responses given by Mr. Luna to the court and to carriers' counsel are set forth in Appendix A. These include:

> The Court: But if it took a year, why conceivably Coast Line will still be struck?
>
> The Witness: That is exactly it, Your Honor.
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> • • •
>
> The Court: They couldn't make an individual agreement?
>
> The Witness: No. sir; they couldn't do that.
>
> The Court: And even though they tried hard to get Mr. Hiltz to—
>
> The Witness: That is their problem.
>
> • • •
>
> The Court: In other words, Mr. Rice and his road are going to be held hostage until a national agreement takes place?
>
> The Witness: Your Honor, may I explain something?
>
> The Court: Let's answer that question.
>
> The Witness: Yes, sir.
>
> The Court: All right, now go ahead Mr. Luna.[23]

In rebuttal argument carriers' counsel, in addition to the approach of the moving papers that the selective strike would be in derogation of national handling, picked up the "hostage" conception and put it (Tr. 116) that the Act "can't possibly, in my view, be interpreted as permitting a road to be struck and, as you put it, held as hostage for a year or two years while the others hold out. It just seems to be an outrageous suggestion of

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[23] Mr. Luna here developed his understanding that the roads were divided on their views as to work rules.

interpretation of the Act. The right to use economic force is a right to seek a settlement. They can't hit one railroad and destroy it in the way that Mr. Luna is suggesting."

This became the Court's ruling (Tr. 120-21, Appendix B):

> "According to the very frank testimony of Mr. Luna, both the Seaboard and the Burlington would be struck until a national agreement is reached. No private agreements with these two carriers would be entered into.
>
> "The purpose of the strike would be to force the Seaboard and the Burlington to put pressure on their bargaining agent in order to reach a national agreement.
>
> "This could take a week, a month, or a year. During this particular period of time, however long or however short, these two roads would be struck, their operations would be closed down and there would be no way by entering a private agreement an individual agreement with the union that these two carriers could get back into operation.
>
> "We are satisfied that a whipsaw strike for such a purpose violates the Railway Labor Act."

The sound legal approach to the so-called "hostage" issue is one which requires reflection, and, we think, consideration in the light of concrete facts rather than abstraction. We reiterate our observations that the courts are not expert in this field of labor relations, they have no guidance from a railway labor tribunal, and they are well advised to proceed with caution before declaring principles that are not expressed in the Act nor so clear and well defined that they must be declared plainly implicit in the Act. The National Labor Relations Board

finds nothing illegitimate or inconsistent with free collective bargaining in a union's putting pressure on a multi-employer bargaining unit by striking individual employers. A strike begun with a lawful purpose may become illegal because of methods used in carrying on the strike, and it may be that this might apply to refusal to bargain with an employer who had withdrawn from the multiple unit. But such determinations cannot fairly be made in advance of ascertaining the factual perspective.

The case before us is one in which the declaration of absolute principle brought forth by the court was particularly inappropriate because the Union's intentions had not been formulated on the issue of negotiating with a carrier who withdrew from collective bargaining, and the issue was put in purely hypothetical terms. As appears from the transcript (Appendix A), carrier's counsel embarked on a testing of Mr. Luna's contingent plans, as of course he had a right to do in testing the good faith of Mr. Luna's declaration of intention to seek a national agreement.

It is clear from the transcript that Mr. Luna's testimony that his objective was to seek a national agreement and that he would refuse to sign an individual agreement with the struck carriers was in the context of the situation presently existing, where the two carriers involved were in the group represented by the unit engaged in bargaining on a national basis. When he was asked what he would do if the road offered to withdraw from the national group, Mr. Luna inquired whether the road would do that. When the question was renewed on a hypothetical basis, objection was made by Union counsel to the asking of a hypothetical question. We interject that the hypothetical nature of the inquiry was not only plain from the very nature of the question but was underscored by the previous testimony of Mr. Hiltz, the carriers' bargaining spokesman, that while it is entirely

voluntary whether a railroad participates in national handling of a dispute, he had not had any occasion, and knew of no instance, in which a railroad that had given a power of attorney to participate in such national handling had subsequently withdrawn the power of attorney. (Tr. 42). Following the objection of Union counsel the court asked Mr. Luna whether he would accept a private settlement agreement but the court did not set forth as a premise either that the road would have withdrawn from the national group or on what terms.

Our concern with the abstract and hypothetical predicate underlying the District Court's statement of an absolute principle is heightened by our judgment that the concrete facts as they developed would have a bearing on the legal principle involved and in all likelihood on the actual response of the Union in the light of the facts as they took shape. The Union's willingness and obligation to negotiate with, say, Seaboard might well be affected by the nature and extent of Seaboard's activities and its claim to be an innocent hostage. Suppose Seaboard had proposed further steps toward agreement which the Conference had rejected? Suppose on the contrary it had used its vote and influence to stand firm against national concessions? Suppose Seaboard claimed that the group had abdicated its implied responsibility to take fair and effective national action in the light of a threat to national bargaining,—*e.g.*, had rejected Seaboard's request for more mutualizing of the burden; or for a national response in the form of a unilateral change in work rules.

We feel constrained to interject a note of caution against the confusion that may arise from using for the area of labor relations a conception like that of "hostage" which regenerates the horror with which the free world reacted to the German execution of innocent civilians in the 1940's. And even the rules of international law apparently draw some distinctions in terms of the innocence

of the hostage that makes inapplicable a recourse to principles of collective responsibility.[24]

Returning to the subject at hand, we are not to be taken as setting forth one way or the other the principles governing the legitimacy of a Union's refusal to bargain with a struck employer who has withdrawn from a multi-employer group. What we do rule is that this problem may not be taken as permitting the enjoining at its inception of a strike against an employer called for a lawful purpose of exerting economic pressure toward the objective of achieving a national agreement, because of the hypothetical possibility that the facts as they develop may come to show a method in violation of the Act in the Union's refusal to bargain with the struck employer notwithstanding his intervening withdrawal from the group. At such time the court may step in, consider the actual facts, and if appropriate enjoin the continuation of the method or the strike. The carriers could seek such relief, if warranted on the actual facts as they developed, by a motion in their pending complaint and docket. The District Court should not have granted a preliminary injunction on this basis.

6. We conclude this discussion of the merits by noting Judge Pratt's concluding reference (Appendix B), that notwithstanding Judge Parker's opinion, the general rule in the Federal courts has been that selective railway

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[24] See, Whiteman, Digest of International Law, Vol. 10, pp. 321 ff., for rulings of American tribunals after World War II reflecting some differences of understanding, and the making of distinctions between hostages and reprisals; the possibility, under a theory of collective responsibility, of taking hostage if limited to the members of the group responsible, and as a warning against consequence of future unlawful acts. A Dutch court acknowledged the possibility of hostages by an occupying power when the population was engaged through their government in illegal activity.

The humane treatment provisions of the 1949 Geneva Convention prohibiting the taking of hostages are applicable to persons "taking no active part in the hostilities," including "members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed *hors de combat.*"

strikes are properly enjoined, as in the instances of the orders entered by Judge Corcoran in the *Alton* case and Judge Robinson in the *Burlington* case.

Confusion as to the scope of these opinions may be due in part to the different conceptions ascribed to the term "whipsaw" strikes.[25] In any event as we have already pointed out it is not a sound reading of *Alton* and earlier opinions to say that they condemn all selective strikes and to gloss over the all-important question of whether the selective strike is one that seeks to disrupt national bargaining by achieving individual agreements.[26]

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[25] In NLRB v. Truck Drivers Union, 353 U.S. at 90, fn. 7, Justice Brennan said: " 'Whipsawing' is the process of striking one at a time the employer members of a multi-employer association." But the context was a strike and threat of future strikes "with the 'calculated purpose' of causing 'successive and individual employer capitulations.' " p. 91. The term is applied by the carriers to all selective strikes.

It is apparently used by at least some union officials to apply only to pressure put on a particular employer to give a better agreement than one already negotiated with others (Mr. Leighty, Tr. 93).

[26] We revert to our earlier discussion. While *Alton* contains some general expressions as to selective strikes, its core doctrine, properly analyzed, is one that permits an injunction when the Union undercuts its duty under the Act to continue national bargaining by its striking individual carriers in an attempt to force individual agreements. Judge Robinson's earlier opinion in Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R. v. Railway Emp. Dept., 301 F. Supp. 603 (D.D.C. 1969), dealt with a union that had avowedly refused to engage in national bargaining, and the injunction against the selective strike was only to require the union to discharge that obligation.

Alton is entirely congruent with Judge Parker's judgment in *Burlington* (*supra*, pp. 14-15) that a selective strike is "a legitimate economic tool which the union can exert against carriers involved in national handling negotiations so long as the union continues to seek a national agreement by applying economic pressure on the carriers without seeking to coerce individual carriers into disrupting the multi-employer bargaining unit and settling on an individual basis." The *Burlington* opinion (Appendix C) is to the same effect.

The reasonable probability of success foreseen for the carriers by the District Court rests on an erroneous premise. Under the doctrines we have set forth there is no reasonable probability that the Union's strike will be held violative of the Act in its inception, there being no evidence or finding of bad faith to contradict the statement of the Union's president that the strike was called against two roads in order to generate economic pressure in an effort to revive stalled bargaining and arrive at a national agreement.

III. CONSIDERATIONS PERTAINING TO REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

We turn to the question whether our function on review at this juncture requires us to affirm the grant of a preliminary injunction notwithstanding our views concerning the error in the approach taken by the District Court.

1. Applicable doctrine states that "a preliminary injunction normally lies in the discretion of the trial judge" and the appellate court's scope of review is limited "to the issues of whether the trial judge abused his discretion in granting the injunction, or rested his analysis upon an erroneous premise." *A Quaker Action Group* v. *Hickel*, 137 U.S.App.D.C. 176, 180, 421 F.2d 1111, 1115 (1969). We think this case falls within the group of situations where the granting of an injunction must be reversed because the trial judge rested his action upon an erroneous premise.[27]

The court is obligated to appraise the merits of a case on a request for preliminary injunction. In the first

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[27] Compare District 50, United Mine Workers of America v. Internat'l Union, 134 U.S.App.D.C. 34, 412 F.2d 165 (1969); Perry v. Perry, 88 U.S.App.D.C. 337, 338, 190 F.2d 601, 602 (1951); Page Communications v. Resor, #24,784 (D.C. Cir. Dec. 4, 1970, unreported); Ring v. Spina, 148 F.2d 647, 650 (2d Cir. 1945).

place, the "movant must show a substantial likelihood of success on the merits," [28] a requirement sometimes phrased as a "reasonable probability of success." Moreover, an assessment of the merits also suffuses the other factors requisite to a preliminary injunction,—the requirement that movant show irreparable harm in the absence of an injunction, and the need of the court to consider damage to the respondent from granting the injunction, and to consider the public interest involved in both the grant and denial of relief. The accommodation and "balancing" of these considerations often, perhaps typically, depend on underlying premises as to the substantive law defining legal rights.

Thus in cases involving a claim by movant of interference with protected freedoms or other constitutional rights, the finding of irreparable injury cannot meaningfully be rested on a mere contention of a litigant, but depends on an appraisal of the validity, or at least the probable validity, of the legal premise underlying the claim of right in jeopardy of impairment.[29] It often happens that when the parties present conflicting claims of rights and conflicting fears of threatened injury, one from the impact of the activity sought to be restrained, the other from the impact of any injunctive order, the situation realistically facing the court is this, that one party or the other will be injured whichever course is taken. A sound disposition in the interest of justice from the process of discerning and weighing of pertinent interests must depend on a reflective and attentive appraisal as to the outcome on the merits.[30]

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[28] A Quaker Action Group v. Hickel, *supra*, 137 U.S.App.D.C. at 181, 421 F.2d at 1116, and cases cited.

[29] *E.g.*, Green v. Kennedy, 309 F. Supp. 1127, 1138-39 (three-judge court) (D.D.C. 1970).

[30] Massachusetts Ave, Heights Citizens Assn. v. Embassy Corp., — U.S.App.D.C. —, —, 433 F.2d 513, 514 (1970).

In this case, the District Court voiced a quite proper concern with the possibility that the two struck railroads would suffer substantial and possibly crippling economic harm while the dispute was being resolved on the merits. On the other side of the coin, however, the suspension of the employees' right to strike involves a fundamental right rooted in the freedom of the citizens of a free society to assemble and organize together for lawful purposes. It was a conviction that the Federal courts had not sufficiently taken into account this freedom of employees that led to the passage of the Norris-LaGuardia Act. The court has authority to issue injunctions to prevent violations of the Railway Labor Act. But that Act too has a central conception that underscores the right of labor to strike and of management to self help, after the period when these rights have been kept in suspense.

Indeed the Administration's December 1970 request for legislation to avert the rail strike took into account that in view of the protracted nature of the dispute the unions "understandably" felt aggrieved by a proposal for further delay,[31] but expressed the position that the time previously available for intensive consideration of the recommendations of the Emergency Board had been insufficent to grapple with all the intermeshed issues. Three months later the employees' right to strike cannot fairly be suspended in the face of a conclusion on the merits that its assertion violates no legal duty.

The duty to appraise the merits at the stage of preliminary injunction is a duty of appellate as well as trial courts. Usually this appraisal is phrased in terms of probability or substantial likelihood of success after trial. Sometimes, however, the interest of justice is furthered by providing a determination on the merits, both at the

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[31] Secretary Hodgson's testimony, Dec. 9, 1970, Senate Hearings, *supra* note 5, at 10.

trial court and on appeal, if and to the extent that the matter is ripe, notwithstanding that technically the only matter submitted is a request for a preliminary injunction. *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co.* v. *Sawyer*, 343 U.S. 579, 584-85 (1952).

Insofar as the action of the trial judge on a request for preliminary injunction rests on a premise as to the pertinent rule of law, that premise is reviewable fully and de novo in the appellate court. The matter stands in a different posture from that involved when there is no question or disagreement as to the legal principle involved, and the element of probability of success on the merits depends on a forecast as to the shape of the facts likely to emerge at trial. If the appellate court has a view as to the applicable legal principle that is different from that premised by the trial judge, it has a duty to apply the principle which it believes proper and sound. The reversal of the trial judge in no way reflects a determination that he was unreasonable or arbitrary, or chargeable with an abuse of discretion, but only and simply that his premise as to the applicable rule of law is deemed erroneous by the appellate court.

2. Implicit in what we have said is the disposition appropriate for two factors that are often singled out for dominant weight in disposition of preliminary injunction requests. The first is preservation of the status quo. This typically, indeed often, is a central reason for sustaining the grant of a preliminary injunction. But it cannot prevail over a determination that the party enjoined will be deprived of substantial legal rights discerned by appraisal of the merits of the case. There may be an exception for those cases where bond can in any event secure the party enjoined, but that is hardly the situation before us where only a $1,000 bond was provided, and furthermore money damages compensable by bond would be difficult if not impossible to ascertain.

There is an important difference in this regard between the kind of "freeze" order available from a court and from Congress. While Congress may in effect move like a court to enjoin a strike for a temporary period, it has the additional flexibility of being able to write commands that limit the injury to the party enjoined even during the temporary period. The Joint Resolution of December 10, 1970, P.L. 91-541, is a concrete example. In that law Congress found substance in the complaint of the unions of the consequence of further delay in the exercise of their rights, and provided for the granting of wage increases, retroactive in part to January 1, 1970, and in part to November 1, 1970, in accordance with one of the recommendations of Emergency Board 178.

The other doctrine is that the granting or denial of injunctive relief may properly depend on ascertainment of the public interest.[32] A question arises whether a temporary prohibition of selective strikes is in the public interest, whether it may not be in the immediate public interest for strikes to be on a selective basis, against a few roads, rather than on a national basis.[33] If the

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[32] Virginian Ry. v. System Federation No. 40, 300 U.S. 515, 552 (1937): "Courts of equity may, and frequently do, go much farther both to give and withhold relief in furtherance of the public interest than they are accustomed to go when only private interests are involved."

[33] We note that the President, in submitting on February 13, 1971, the report called for by P.L. 91-541, proposed legislation that would give the President a choice in case of intractable labor disputes. One alternative would result in a binding determination of the dispute by a new Commission. The other alternative would give the President the option of permitting the parties to maintain selective strikes or lockouts, provided executive determinations ensured the existence of alternative transportation services and the lack of jeopardy to the health and safety of all sections of the Nation.

The legislative history of P.L. 91-541, includes a House debate, 116 Cong. Rec., December 9, 1970, H 11370-11373, on a proposal

premise is that a prohibition of selective strikes is in the public interest, because the union would not dare to exercise its legal right to call a national strike in view of the probability that Congress would intervene to grasp the situation, we first observe that such a premise implies as a consequence that the union has lost the right to any strike whatever,—a position which cannot be taken as defining the public interest unless and until the legislature says so and revises the Act accordingly. Moreover, we question whether a court should directly engage in such calculations of legislative strategy, however realistic. That brings us back to the approach that is plainly appropriate to the judicial branch, to let the judicial action depend on an appraisal of the legal rights of the parties on the merits, at

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by Congressman Eckhardt to permit selective strikes, involving no more than three carriers in a region, subject to a duty to carry goods affecting health and safety as required by the Secretary of Transportation.

The sponsor urged that the proposal of a limited selective strike was necessary in order to ensure realistic bargaining on the part of the railroads. Both supporters and opponents of the measure assumed that under the existing law the courts would enjoin selective strikes,—an assumption apparently referable to the actions and language of the rulings of the District Court, reviewed above. See, *e.g.*, Mr. Eckhardt: "I think it does little more than restate what is the proper interpretation of that act, but up to now the trial courts have forced upon us a nationwide strike." Mr. Springer: "What the gentleman from Texas is trying to do is to overcome a court decision which forbids exactly what the gentleman is trying to put into this resolution."

Other Congressmen said that the Eckhardt proposal had "some very good points," but that the subject required thorough discussion and more time for consideration than was available in the emergency consideration attending the Joint Resolution. The Eckhardt proposal was defeated. Two months later President Nixon submitted his proposal discussed above. His report rejected the feasibility of "partial" strikes (the carrying of some goods by a struck railroad) but recommended an option for selective strikes. He recommended the discontinuance of the unemployment benefits generally payable employees striking a railroad.

least if the case is ripe, for surely that is in the public interest.

3. While we reverse the order granting the preliminary injunction that has been appealed to this court, we contemplate that the District Court's continuing jurisdiction over the complaint and docket will keep the door of the equity court open and available, on an expeditious basis, for such access as developments may show to be warranted in law. As already noted, while we differ with Judge Pratt as to the legal approach properly applicable we have not termed his action an arbitrary abuse of judicial discretion. And in this opinion (Part II, 5) we have identified his area of concern as one that may properly require judicial consideration depending on the response of the carriers, and perhaps of Congress, to the pressure generated by the calling of a selective strike.

It occurs to this court as a possibility that may merit exploration by the parties, and if necessary by the District Court, that the Union's search for some economic pressure on the railroads to stimulate national bargaining, and the interest in avoiding vengeful harm to carriers without meaningful responsibility or capacity to affect the result, may be reconciled by providing what will in effect be a rotation of selective strikes. These and other possibilities must await concrete proposals and developments, and we intend no ruling on them.

We conclude by referring to a matter that has not been previously identified. This court has noted that carriers and labor alike have an obligation under the Act to treat with each other through "responsible conduct of the process of collective bargaining."[34] That responsibility continues even after the termination of an agreement, and even after the right of strike or self help comes into existence. That

[34] Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen v. Akron & B.B.R., 128 U.S.App.D.C. 59, 74, 385 F.2d 581, 596 (1967), *cert. denied*, 390 U.S. 923 (1968).

responsibility is not consistent with such actions as a deliberate timing of a strike without prior warning, with the purpose of enhancing plant damage, or some other garrotte of jungle warfare.[35]

The difficulties presented by the case before us may have been accentuated by the Union's determination to call a strike effective midnight Sunday, without direct notice to the railroads. We think the continuing duty of responsible bargaining under the Act fairly embraces reasonable notice of a strike or lockout or other self help. In a land conversant with the tradition of two weeks notice for a discharge, that would seem a bench mark for reasonable notice. While a requirement of reasonable notice may be unwelcome to the Union as providing time for countermeasures, it is a limited interference with the protected freedoms that our judgment safeguards, and one that is appropriate in view of the purpose of the Act to achieve resolution of disputes as far as possible through responsible bargaining.

Our view that the Union's selective strike is lawful in its inception depends on an assumption of good faith as to its stated purpose of the strike. The District Court has continuing jurisdiction to reappraise the Union's good faith in the light of either substantial evidence not previously available or developments as to tactics and methods following notice to the carriers of the strike call.

The order of the District Court granting a preliminary injunction is reversed. The cause is remanded to remain on the docket of the District Court and subject to its continuing jurisdiction, for such further proceedings as may become appropriate, not inconsistent with the opinion of this Court.

So ordered.

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[35] NLRB v. Marshall Car Wheel & F. Co., 218 F.2d 409, 413 (5th Cir. 1955).

Appendix A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Civil Action No. 2717-70

DELAWARE & HUDSON RY. CO., ET AL.

v.

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION

Excerpts from testimony of CHARLES LUNA, March 10, 1971
(Tr. 50-83)

I. DIRECT TESTIMONY

Q. You say the notices that you served initially were entirely related to wages?

A. First notices, yes, sir. And that is all we intended to serve, unless the carriers served a counter-proposal on some rules.

Q. Did you serve those notices uniformly on all the carriers with which you do business?

A. Yes, sir, on wages, we did. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ask the various carriers to join in authorizing their respected [sic] carrier's conference committees in the National Railway Labor Conference to handle this nationally?

A. I am sure we did on wages. We always try to handle wages on a national basis, because as long as I can recall the wages it has been the same.

Q. Has it been consistently your objective, since this movement started, to handle the wage issue on a national basis?

A. You have to do that. We would have chaos in the industry and in our organization, too, if two men were doing the same work and getting different pay. It has to be handled that way.

Q. Was this your objective?

A. It is my objective now.

Q. It is your objective now.

Let me ask you the specific question, then, Mr. Luna:

You did authorize the general committees on the Seaboard and on the Burlington Northern to withdraw from service as of 12:01 a.m. on the 8th of March.

Was it your objective to get a national settlement—

A. Definitely.

Q. —out of that?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You say that was your objective?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. How did you expect that that was going to work?

Did you think that these two railroads would collapse and make individual agreements with you or what did you expect them to do?

A. If I had thought that I was wrong and I never had any thought along that line, because I have been informed that the National Committee has their power of attorney to negotiate for them in this wage and rule case that we are now negotiating and have been negotiating nationally.

My hopes was to put pressure on Mr. Hiltz and the one man at each—the Southeast, the West, and the Eastern railroad has in Mr. Hiltz's committee to put enough pressure on them where we could sit down and get that little distance that we lack between making a national agreement and getting it behind us and getting our people some pay that they rightly deserve.

Q. What did you anticipate, if Mr. DeButts or Mr. Rice would have come around to you and said, "We want to make an agreement with you to get you off our back."

What would have been your attitude toward them?

A. I would have told them to get back to their representative in the National Conference and tell them, "Let's make one for the entire railroad industry that I was representing."

Q. Have you had any experience, Mr. Luna, for example,

with respect to the crew consist dispute in dealing with railroads piecemeal?

A. Yes, sir; I sure have.

Q. This has been quite a long experience, hasn't it?

A. Well, when you talk about doing it piecemeal—five years ago December 31 of 1970, we made a first crew consist agreement. Today we haven't got them all made.

We still have some more that we have got to go to and try to work out an agreement with. It would be an impossibility to work on wages with as many railroads as we have in the United States and handle them one at a time.

Q. Let me see whether I get it straight what happened with respect to crew consist.

You said it was five years ago in December 1970? Is that correct?

In other words, you made your first agreement—

A. Made the first one.

Q. —in '65, I believe.

A. I believe that is right. The Luna-Saunders agreement run out December 31 last year, 1970 how come me to remember it.

And we still haven't got all the agreements made today.

Q. Mr. Claytor testified with respect to this crew consist question and he indicated that he had had some experience in dealing with that issue.

Did he participate in any national handling of that question?

A. The Southern—the railroad that he was the president wasn't a part of the national handling of the crew consist.

Q. So whatever experiences Mr. Claytor has had with respect to strikes on his railroad or negotiation of a separate agreement there have been entirely confined to that railroad and then subsequently set a pattern?

Is that correct?

A. It was confined to that railroad and the crew consist —the courts ruled that we didn't have to handle it na-

tionally. It has never been handled nationally. And in four times in President's Emergency Board the carrier took the position that it shouldn't be handled nationally, it should be handled on individual properties.

Q. Mr. Luna, let me get back for a moment to this authorization you gave for a withdrawal from service on the 8th of March.

Did you authorize your people completely to shut down all service on those railroads?

A. I told them to move anything that was for defense or anything that was war materiel. I told them above all, in every telegram that I sent them, to move anything for defense or war materiel.

Q. Did you write the President of the United States to that effect?

A. I wrote the President of the United States and gave the cabinet members that were interested a copy of it.

Q. I would like to show you, Mr. Luna, a copy of a letter which purports to be over your signature and ask you whether this is a copy of the letter you have been talking about.

MR. SHEA: I wonder if counsel would be so good as to let me have a copy of that letter.

THE COURT: I think he would.

THE WITNESS: I would be glad to, Mr. Shea.

That is it.

MR. SCHOENE: I will get a copy for you, Mr. Shea. This is the only copy I have. I will be glad to furnish you with a copy.

If Your Honor please, I would like to have this letter, which Mr. Luna has identified—

THE COURT: That will be marked as Defendants' No. 1, if you want to offer it.

MR. SCHOENE: Thank you. I would like to offer it in evidence.

THE COURT: It will be received.

THE DEPUTY CLERK: Defendants' Exhibit No. 1 marked for identification and received into evidence.

[Defendants' Exhibit No. 1, letter by Mr. Luna, was marked for identification and received in evidence.]

BY MR. SCHOENE:

Q. Mr. Luna, you told us that in this dispute, which you started completely as a wage dispute, the carrier served some counter-proposals with respect to rules. Nevertheless, you have told us, also, that you expect a national agreement to come out of this and would only settle on a national basis.

Will you tell us how you would expect the rules to be disposed of on a national basis or what would be a satisfactory disposition of the rules on a national basis?

A. It is two ways you could dispose of them.

In the President's Emergency Board report, which isn't binding on either side, they suggested setting up a big committee to make a study of some of these rules and certain rules that should go to them and in the agreement that will be made nationally you will agree on what dispensation to make of these rules.

It will either be referred back to the party, to the individual properties to be settled, they will be referred to this committee that the Emergency Board recommended, or they will be withdrawn. And it has to be made in the national agreement, so that they will be out of the way.

Q. So you would expect any agreement that was the objective of your proposed strike to be a national settlement on wages and a national disposition with respect to the rules by one of these devices that you have described?

A. We always have. Yes, sir. That is the way we have used it before.

* * * * *

II. Cross-Examination

By Mr. Shea:

Q. Mr. Luna, do you recall appearing before the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare on SJ Resolution 246?

A. Is that on December 10th or December 9th?

Q. December 9, 1970.

A. December 9th, yes, sir.

Mr. Bernstein: What year?

The Witness: This year.

Mr. Shea: 1970.

The Witness: 1970.

By Mr. Shea:

Q. Mr. Luna, at that time the Congress and particularly the committee involved had under consideration, did it not, legislation relating to this controversy that is involved here?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And am I not correct that you urged upon the committee that they ought to pass legislation which would permit you to engage in selective strikes?

A. I think the record will show that I urged the committee to stay out of it and let us handle it under the Railway Labor Act.

* * * * *

Q. Am I correct, Mr. Luna, that you said to the committee that if they would provide so that you might strike on a selective basis—or as the Supreme Court and I call it a whipsaw basis—that you would never have to come back to them? Is that correct?

A. I don't recall it, but—

The Witness: Can I explain?

The Court: Go ahead, Mr. Luna.

The Witness: I don't think these labor disputes belong up on the Hill.

Now as long as the railroads has somebody to bail them out, which they have had for years if they can cause a national crisis, I don't want to have to go up there. I don't think it is their responsibility.

Now what we are trying to do and have been trying to do is the only way we can represent our people is have a national strike.

And they know and I know and if you will go back to '46 we had a two-day national strike in 1946. I was switching boxcars. And Harry Truman said he was going to put us in the Army.

And Alvania Johnson and Al Whitney settled it right here in Washington. They wrote us a fairly good letter then that we would never be able to strike these railroads on a national basis.

Now at that time, I think the record will show, we was handling about 86 per cent of the intercity freight. Now we are only handling about 43 per cent of the intercity freight.

MR. SHEA: If the Court please, I don't mind Mr. Luna explaining his answer, but I would like to get on with this examination.

THE COURT: Mr. Luna is going to be over this in a minute.

Go ahead, Mr. Luna.

THE WITNESS: Now we found out that they wasn't going to let us strike nationally and the railroads found it out.

Now they call these selective strikes. We always could have them. We have had them since time immemorial.

But all at once they found out that we had another avenue, we had—the Congress consented to bail us out, so we will force them into a national strike and we will let Congress and the Senate bail us out.

That is not their job in my opinion. And the only thing that we want is so we can represent our members. If we don't, someone else is.

BY MR. SHEA:

Q. Mr. Luna, did you not say to the committee that if they would provide so that you could strike selectively you had had experience with this in the crew consist case and you would get this resolved in the same way that you resolved it in the crew consist case?

* * * * *

MR. BERNSTEIN: If the Court please, I object to that. I would respectfully submit that proper cross-examination would present to the witness a statement he allegedly made to the Congress and ask him if he said it or he didn't and ask him to explain or what else, but not try to test his memory.

THE COURT: Mr. Shea, do you have something you want to show Mr. Luna?

MR. SHEA: Unless Your Honor rules otherwise, I would like him to answer that question.

THE COURT: Can you answer without seeing the statement?

THE WITNESS: My memory is better than the other people on the witness stand, I will promise you that. I will also promise you that the question he just asked, if I said that, I don't testify before anybody like that. And I don't think that I said—

THE COURT: It doesn't sound like what you said?

THE WITNESS: I don't sound like anything anyone would say before a Senate committee.

BY MR. SHEA:

Q. Mr. Luna, permit me to read you from your testimony before the Senate committee—

THE COURT: You might show it to him, first, so he can see what you are reading from, Mr. Shea.

THE WITNESS: That is a good idea.

Where is it, Mr. Shea?

MR. BERNSTEIN: May we have the reference, Mr. Shea, so we can follow along your path?

MR. SHEA: You may.

THE WITNESS: I don't object to your reading it at all if you read it all. Don't take it out of—out apart.

MR. BERNSTEIN: May we have the reference, Mr. Shea?

MR. SHEA: Yes, hearing before the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare of the United States Senate, 91st Congress, on SJ Resolution 246, page 63.

BY MR. SHEA:

MR. BERNSTEIN: Thank you.

Q. In response to Senator Javits, didn't you say the following:

> I have found out in dealing with railroads and we would not have a national emergency if you will go back to what caused the national emergency, I happen to be the one that handled the crew consist case. I happen to be the one that handled the strike on the ACL, the Southern, and the U.P.
>
> We have settled all those crew consist cases but one. We are in the Supreme Court on it now. The only reason we settled was that we could use our economic strength. We were making progress.
>
> Then they take us to a court and they get the judge to give them a restraining order that you can't strike one railroad, you can't strike two railroads, you can't strike three railroads.

* * * * *

BY MR. SHEA:

Q. Did you testify to that, as well as to other things?

A. As well as some other things. And you didn't read the complete statement.

THE COURT: You are well represented, Mr. Luna. Your counsel can bring that out, if he wishes.

THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

BY MR. SHEA:

Q. I will show you this, Mr. Luna—

MR. SHEA: This is page 61 of the hearings before the

Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, House of Representatives, HJ Resolution 1413, page 61.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

Mr. Shea, which part are you talking about? Where does it start?

It is the same testimony, only it is all of it.

BY MR. SHEA:

Q. Let me read this to you, Mr. Luna, part of the question from Mr. Adams which was as follows:

> One of you have testified that you would be willing to take on one road in one part in each part of the country so there wouldn't be a national emergency.
>
> I want to know whether or not it is possible to create muscle or create this incentive to bargain which seems to be necessary?
>
> We had that before and we would have that again this time, if there wasn't a court order that says we can't strike three railroads, that we have to strike them all.
>
> I used that approach on the crew consist issue. You might remember the crew consist. As a result of being able to do that, we have settled every crew consist in the United States without coming to Congress, except the Chicago Northwestern and it is in the Supreme Court of the United States for the third time.

Did you so testify?

A. And the law so reads that way.

Q. Mr. Luna, I take it that you informed the Congress that you intended to do in this controversy, if you were permitted, just what you did in the crew consist case?

A. Mr. Shea, it's a difference—that crew consist case was ruled by the Supreme Court that you couldn't handle it on a national basis.

Isn't it?

Q. Mr. Luna, if you will just answer my question and I will rephrase it, if you have any difficulty understanding it.

What you plan to do in this case, if permitted, is the same as you did in the crew consist case, that is, to strike one or two or three railroads, seek their capitulation and then go on to others?

A. You couldn't be further from the truth. I couldn't live with a settlement like that. I just testified to that.

We have never, as long as I have been in the union, had different rates on different railroads, as far as rates of pay was concerned.

Q. Mr. Luna, are you suggesting that if you strike the Coast Line that there is no way for the Coast Line to settle with you, unless all the other roads settle?

Is that what you are saying?

A. I am telling you the Coast Line tells me Mr. Hiltz and the Conference Committee has his power of attorney.

I have never met with the Coast Line on this.

THE COURT: I think Mr. Shea is entitled to an answer to the question.

Read it back, Miss Reporter.

(Whereupon, the Reporter read the following question:

"QUESTION: Mr. Luna, are you suggesting that if you strike the Coast Line that there is no way for the Coast Line to settle with you, unless all the other roads settle?

"Is that what you are saying?")

THE WITNESS: That is exactly what I am saying.

BY MR. SHEA:

Q. So that if the other roads settle, Coast Line will be out until the others or a majority of the others agree?

Is that what you are saying?

A. Not a majority. They have a conference committee.

THE COURT: They have a national agreement.

THE WITNESS: That is right. It is that simple.

THE COURT: And if it happened a week later, fine. But

if it took a year, why conceivably Coast Line will still be struck?

THE WITNESS: That is exactly it, Your Honor.

BY MR. SHEA:

Q. And there would be no way for the Coast Line to settle with you?

A. It is national agreement.

THE COURT: They couldn't make an individual agreement?

THE WITNESS: No sir; they couldn't do that.

THE COURT: And even though they tried hard to get Mr. Hiltz to—

THE WITNESS: That is their problem.

* * * * *

Q. Mr. Luna, I want to be sure, now, that I understand you.

If you strike the Coast Line, what you are saying is that Mr. Rice has no way of stopping that strike unless he can get all the other railroads to enter into the agreement that you want?

He can't withdraw from national handling, there is no way of his settling that even if it goes on for a year or two?

Is that what you are saying?

A. You didn't say anything about withdrawing before.

Q. Is that what you are saying?

A. I am saying that he is a member of the National Conference Committee.

Q. I see.

A. And the National Conference Committee has told me they had a right to handle all the railroads' business on this movement we are in.

And I am saying that my intentions are to strike Mr. Rice's railroad, as you say, and the Burlington Northern and try to force them to tell their representatives on that National Committee, "You settle this thing, because I don't want my railroad struck."

But I am not about to start settling wages with individual railroads and establish a lot of different rates over this United States.

Q. If Mr. Rice comes to you and says, "Mr. Luna, I just can't stand this any longer. I am withdrawing my authorization to the National Railway Labor Conference. I've got to settle it," you would say, "I won't settle with you. I am going to continue this strike until everyone agrees."

A. You are talking about something that hasn't happened.

Is that right?

Q. Yes. I am talking about something that hasn't happened.

A. Will Mr. Rice do that?

Q. I am not talking about what Mr. Rice will do. That is a perfectly appropriate question.

I am asking you—

A. For your information—

Q. I am asking you if I understand correctly that if Mr. Rice comes to you and says, "I can't stand this strike any longer. I've got to do whatever I can do. I've got to withdraw from national handling and get this settled with you," you would say, "No, sir, withdraw from national handling or anything else, I am not going to agree with you. I am not going to settle this with you. I don't care how long this strike has to go on. I am not going to settle with you until all the railroads agree."

Is that what you are saying?

A. You are talking—

MR. BERNSTEIN: If the Court please, before the witness answers, not only is this question put by counsel completely theoretical without any historical precedent in fact, but it is also completely de hors with what the law is.

There is no law that this can't be done. I therefore submit the question be stricken as not being relevant to the facts legally.

THE COURT: Let me ask the question.

If Mr. Rice wanted to make a private agreement with you involving Seaboard in order to end this strike, you would not accept such a settlement? Is that correct?

THE WITNESS: No, sir; I couldn't.

BY MR. SHEA:

Q. Under any circumstances?

A. Well, I don't think I would want to go that far. But I think I have answered it.

I might have a gun in my head or something like that.

THE COURT: In other words, Mr. Rice and his road are going to be held hostage until a national agreement takes place?

THE WITNESS: Your Honor, may I explain something?

THE COURT: Let's answer that question.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: All right. Now go ahead Mr. Luna.

THE WITNESS: We are together on wages, Your Honor.

THE COURT: I understand you are.

THE WITNESS: We are together on the wages.

The only thing we are apart on is some rules.

Now my information is that some of the railroads—the information I get back—are not for some of the things that other railroads are for.

THE COURT: That is where the problem is.

THE WITNESS: That is where the problem is. That is exactly right.

As far as the wages are concerned, on the national level, we have come to terms on that.

While we are on that, they keep referring to that testimony there. It was four unions before that Senate committee.

THE COURT: I know it.

THE WITNESS: Three of them is settled and I will take the same settlement they got.

They are wanting us to pay for their raise with our rules. I can't do that.

* * * * *

III. Redirect Examination

Mr. Schoene: I just want to give Mr. Luna the opportunity to put into the record the entire answer that Mr. Shea had him read in part.

By Mr. Schoene:

Q. I think, Mr. Luna, Mr. Shea presented you with the statement which you made in response to a question by Senator Javits before the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare of the United States Senate reported on page 63 of those hearings.

Would you read your entire answer, please, Mr. Luna?

I think you just as well read it, save the Judge time reading it.

A. The individual worker, Senator, would get the raise. But the organization is what would take out of its pocket would lose that much.

Let me go a little further. The rules that they are talking about, we might as well face the facts. Some of these rules were in the White House settlement. They have had since 1964 to settle these rules—since 1964.

They do not want to settle the rules. They want somebody to force us to accept them.

I have found out in dealing with the railroads that we would have a national emergency if we would go back to what caused the national emergency.

I happen to be the one who handled the crew consist cases.

I think the rest of it is in there.

Mr. Schoene: Mr. Shea, would you mind giving me the page reference?

Mr. Shea: It was on page 61.

Mr. Schoene: Thank you.

By Mr. Schoene:

Q. Now would you read the whole of your answer to Mr. Adams from page 61 of the report of the hearings on the

Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce in the House of Representatives on HJ Resolution 1413 and HJ Resolution 1414, please, Mr. Luna?

A. These same rules have gone through negotiations, first. They have gone through mediation, second. And I would say each has at least exchanged proposals on each other at least two or three times already. I think any specific time will bring them to a conclusion because both sides knows how far they can go and how far that they will go.

You have to—you have got to have a terminal point so they know if they don't get theirs by the terminal point, that is all.

MR. SCHOENE: Thank, you, Mr. Luna.
That is all I have, Your Honor.
Excuse me.

BY MR. SCHOENE:

Q. Mr. Luna, I would like to show you page 222 of this same volume of hearings before the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare of the United States Senate.

MR. SURA: Of the Senate?

MR. SCHOENE: United States Senate, yes.
On SJ Resolution 246.

BY MR. SCHOENE:

Q. And I would ask you—

MR. SURA: What was that page—if I may interrupt?

MR. SCHOENE: 222.

BY MR. SCHOENE:

Q. This purports to be a letter from the President of the United States to Senator Javits.
Would you please read that letter in its entirety?

A. It is on White House stationery, Washington, December 8, 1970.

"Dear Senator Javits:

"I share your concern about the current railroad labor dispute.

"As you know, I have appointed a Presidential Emergency Board to help resolve the dispute and received that Board's recommendations. Through both George Schultz and directly from Secretary Hodgson, I have been regularly advised of its status.

"Yesterday, I reviewed the status of negotiations and assessed the imminent emergency that would be created by a nation-wide rail industry shutdown. It was my judgment that a message to Congress was called for recommending a time extension during which further bargaining could ensue. For reasons set forth in that statement, I believe that is the right step to take in this dispute at this critical time.

"There is never a 'right time' for a national railroad shutdown, but this is an especially wrong time for such a blow to our economic expansion. That is why I have asked the Congress to act, and why I look forward to your active support.

"Sincerely,

"Richard Nixon."

And copy down there to Hon. Javits, United States Senate.

Q. Mr. Luna, did you understand from this letter and from other advices given to you by the Administration that the Administration would not tolerate a national railroad strike?

A. They not only told us that, they have proved it to us every time we have tried to have one.

Appendix B

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Civil Action No. 2717-70

DELAWARE & HUDSON RY. CO., ET AL.

v.

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION

Ruling of United States District Judge
JOHN H. PRATT
March 10, 1971
(Tr. 118-122.)

THE COURT: Gentlemen, this case has been briefed, live testimony has been taken, we have had extensive argument both written and oral, and the matter, it seems to the Court, is ripe for a decision at this time.

As a prelude to what I am going to say and for the benefit of the record, I am going to read the purposes of the Railway Labor Act as set out in Section 151a of 45 U.S.C. This is the preliminary of Section 2 of the Act.

The purposes of the chapter are: (1) To avoid any interruption to commerce or to the operation of any carrier engaged therein; (2) to forbid any limitation upon freedom of association among employees or any denial, as a condition of employment or otherwise, of the right of employees to join a labor organization; (3) to provide for the complete independence of carriers and of employees in the matter of self-organization to carry out the purposes

of this chapter; (4) to provide for the prompt and orderly settlement of all disputes concerning rates of pay, rules, or working conditions; (5) to provide for the prompt and orderly settlement of all disputes growing out of grievances or out of the interpretation or application of agreements covering rates of pay, rules, or working conditions.

This is an application for a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction to prevent selective strikes against the Seaboard and the Burlington.

In connection with its presentation, plaintiff submitted affidavits which indicate that such a strike is imminent and Mr. Luna, on behalf of the union has indicated that such is in contemplation. There isn't any question about the imminence of such a strike.

We have to examine, at the outset, the matter of our jurisdiction to grant the extraordinary relief which is requested by the plaintiff.

In order to grant relief, the plaintiff must meet the criteria which has been enunciated several times by the Court of Appeals in this Circuit, particularly in Virginia Petroleum Jobbers at 104 U.S. Appeals D.C. 106 and also in the case they decided last summer entitled Quaker Action Group v. Hickel.

Substantially, these criteria are four in number:

First, that the plaintiff must demonstrate a substantial likelihood of success on the merits;

Second, that if relief is not granted, irreparable injury will be suffered by the plaintiff;

Third, would the issuance of the injunction substantially harm others in the proceeding. For example, would the union be irreparably injured?

Fourth, and finally, where lies the public interest?

According to the very frank testimony of Mr. Luna, both the Seaboard and the Burlington would be struck until

a national agreement is reached. No private agreements with these two carriers would be entered into.

The purpose of the strike would be to force the Seaboard and the Burlington to put pressure on their bargaining agent in order to reach a national agreement.

This could take a week, a month, or a year. During this particular period of time, however long or however short, these two roads would be struck, their operations would be closed down and there would be no way by entering a private agreement an individual agreement with the union that these two carriers could get back into operation.

We are satisfied that a whipsaw strike for such a purpose violates the Railway Labor Act. Even though self-help is now available, because all formal procedures under the Railway Labor Act have been exhausted, the defendant union is still under a duty to make every reasonable effort to reach an agreement.

This includes the obligation of national handling which, I think it is probably agreed, is appropriate to this particular proceeding and is appropriate also because of the historical experience in the handling of matters of this kind.

Selective strikes of the kind proposed, in our judgment, specifically are a clear violation of the defendant's obligation under Section 2, first and second, of the Act.

Despite Judge Parker's opinion, the general rule in the Federal Courts has been that selective strikes under the circumstances of this case are illegal and properly enjoined.

The decision of Judge Corcoran of this Court in the Alton Case and Judge Robinson of this Court in the Burlington Case are two such opinions.

We, therefore, hold that the plaintiff has demonstrated a substantial likelihood of success on the merits.

Secondly, with respect to irreparable injury, clearly a selective strike would cripple the carrier struck with no adequate remedy at law. They are powerless until a national agreement is reached and their ability to contribute to such a national agreement is something that no one can estimate at this time.

If for good reason, bad reason, or no reason a national agreement is not able to be reached, these two carriers are shut down and remain shut until a national agreement is reached.

Thirdly, with respect to balancing the equities, clearly they favor the two carriers over the union. They face the prospect of permanent injury and they possibly could be put out of business through the mere fact that the group to which they belong has not or has not been able to agree upon terms which are satisfactory to the union.

Fourthly and finally, where does the public interest lie? It seems to me from a reading of the general purposes of the Railway Labor Act, which leads off as a primary purpose to avoid any interruption to commerce or to the operation of any carrier engaged therein, it seems to the Court that the public interest clearly favors a continuance of operations and a prevention of anything that would interrupt interstate commerce.

For all of the foregoing reasons, we hold that the plaintiff has made a sufficient showing for us to exercise our jurisdiction to grant this relief in the form of a preliminary injunction and if the parties will settle on an order we will sign it.

Appendix C

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Civil Action No. 2183-70

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, *Plaintiff*

v.

BURLINGTON NORTHERN, INC., ET AL., *Defendants*

Memorandum Opinion

This action, arising under the Railway Labor Act,[1] (hereafter the RLA or the Act), and brought by the United Transportation Union (hereafter the UTU or the Union), against the major rail carriers of the nation, presents to the Court another chapter of a longstanding dispute dealing with the requirements for manning freight and yard diesel locomotives with firemen. The Union seeks a declaratory judgment that once all bargaining procedures provided under the Act have been exhausted, it has the right to strike the railroads individually and selectively and is not restricted to a nationwide strike against all the carriers. The carriers have filed a counterclaim contending that there having been so-called national handling of the fireman manning dispute, any strike by the Union against fewer than all of the carriers involved in such group bargaining violates the Act.

The carriers request the Court to declare the selective strike unlawful and to grant injunctive relief against the Union's proposed course of conduct. At this posture of

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[1] 44 Stat. 577, as amended, 45 U.S.C. § 151, et seq.

the proceedings, the Court considers the Union's motion for summary judgment and the motion of the carriers for a preliminary injunction.

For the reasons set forth, the Court concludes that the motion of the plaintiff Union for summary judgment should be granted and the motion of the defendant carriers for a preliminary injunction should be denied.

The underlying problem was recently described in a Report of a special panel appointed by President Nixon pursuant to the provisions of the Act.[2]

> "The fireman manning issue is the Nation's longest extant labor dispute. And it is also the most studied, reviewed and volatile issue on the American Labor scene. Despite the intensive efforts of a veritable who's who of distinguished labor experts, the parties have failed to agree upon a solution. The dispute has been punctuated by recurrent national crises arising from actual and threatened nation-wide rail stoppages."

The dispute arises out of the continued use of firemen who were employed originally on steam locomotives. The carriers seek complete discretion as to the employment of these firemen on yard and freight diesel locomotives and thus to eliminate those whom they, in their own discretion, deem unnecessary. On the other hand, the Union seeks to restore positions previously eliminated, as well as to maintain existing fireman positions. The Union claims that "firemen are essential to rail operations for reasons of (1) safety, (2) avoidance of undue work burdens, (3) efficiency of operations and (4) providing a pool of trained men for promotion to engineer."[3]

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[2] Report to the President of Emergency Board No. 177, August 6, 1970, p. 1. The Board was appointed on July 7, 1970, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. § 160.

[3] *Id.*, at 5.

The events of this particular chapter of the controversy began in 1963. At that time the Congress, confronted by a nation-wide railroad strike, responded by enacting unprecedented legislation providing for compulsory arbitration of the issue.[4] In accordance with the statute, Arbitration Board 282, composed of representatives of labor, management and the public, was created. The Board rendered an award which was operative for a two year period, expiring on March 31, 1966.

The Board's award, sustained by the Courts against a union challenge,[5] gave authority to the carriers to eliminate certain fireman positions, set forth a procedure for the gradual elimination of the affected employees, and provided for separation benefits.

In November, 1965, prior to the expiration of the award, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen (hereafter the BLF&E) pursuant to the Act[6] served certain bargaining notices on the carriers, requesting changes in the existing contract requirements governing the manning of freight and yard diesel locomotives with firemen, as modified by the award of Arbitration Board No. 282. In January, 1966, the defendant carriers served counter-notices on the BLF&E seeking the unrestricted right to determine when firemen should be used on diesel freight and yard service locomotives. While several conferences were held between the parties, the carriers contended that the Union's notices were premature, and they refused to engage in negotiations. The BLF&E argued that after expiration of the award the operative work rules were those in effect when the Arbitration Board was created.

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[4] Pub. L. No. 88-108, 77 Stat. 129, Aug. 28, 1963.

[5] *Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen* v. *Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Co.*, 225 F. Supp. 11 (D.D.C. 1964), affirmed 331 F. 2d 1020, cert. denied 377 U.S. 918 (1964).

[6] 45 U.S.C. § 156.

Our Circuit Court resolved the questions by ruling that the issues presented by the Union's notices were proper and that the carriers were obliged to confer and bargain under the Railway Labor Act even though the period of the award had not expired. Further, the Court held that the carriers could no longer eliminate jobs under the terms of the award once it had expired; that the results of the award remained effective until changed in accordance with the procedures of the RLA; and that the BLF&E could not strike until those procedures were exhausted. *Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen* v. *Akron and Barberton Belt Railroad Co.*, 128 U.S. App. D.C. 59, 385 F.2d 581 (1967), as amended 1968, cert. denied 390 U.S. 923 (1968).

In mid-1968 the parties invoked the services of the National Mediation Board as provided under the Act.[7] Several rounds of negotiation proved unsuccessful and on November 4, 1969, after advising the parties of failure in its mediation efforts, the Board terminated its services. In accordance with the Act, the parties were then free to resort to self-help on December 5, 1969. However, negotiations were resumed in early 1970 with the assistance of a special mediator appointed by the Secretary of Labor. These negotiations were equally unsuccessful and the efforts of the special mediator were teminated.

On July 7, 1970, the UTU[8] invoked its right of self-help under the Act on its 1965 bargaining notices and struck four carriers. On that same day the carriers applied for and were granted a temporary restraining order by this Court.[9] The carriers challenged the legality of any selec-

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[7] 45 U.S.C. § 155 First.

[8] The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and three other unions, merged on January 1, 1969, to form the United Transportation Union.

[9] *Burlington Northern, Inc., et al.* v. *United Transportation Union*, Civil Action No. 2026-70, (filed July 7, 1970).

tive strike by the Union. Shortly after the issuance of the temporary restraining order, and pursuant to the provisions of the Railway Labor Act, President Nixon created an emergency board to investigate and report concerning the dispute.[10] This action precluded both parties from recourse to self-help for sixty days. Following the presidential action the temporary restraining order was vacated as moot and the carriers withdrew their complaint.

On July 22, 1970, prior to the expiration of the services of Emergency Board 177, the Union filed this action for a declaration that, upon exhaustion of all procedures under the Railway Labor Act, its right to self-help is not restricted to a nationwide strike against all the carriers, but rather it is entitled to strike one or more of the carriers.

Although the Emergency Board made recommendations in its Report to the President on August 6, 1970, the parties were unable to conclude a complete and final agreement. However, negotiations continued by agreement between the Union and the carriers, as well as with the encouragement of this Court. When the matter came before the Court on the Union's motion for summary judgment and the carriers' motion for a preliminary injunction, representations were again made that negotiations would continue. The Union however emphasized that all negotiations subsequent to the report of the Emergency Board were without prejudice to its claimed right of self-help against individual carriers.

At the outset the carriers contend that the action by the Union seeking relief is premature because bargaining and negotiations continue and the possibility of reaching an agreement has not been completely lost and thus no true impasse is present.

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[10] See footnote 2, *supra*.

The procedures for resolving a major dispute under the Act were recently and succinctly outlined by the Supreme Court:

> ". . . A party desiring to effect a change of rates of pay, rules, or working conditions must give advance written notice. § 6. The parties must confer, § 2 Second, and if conference fails to resolve the dispute, either or both may invoke the services of the National Mediation Board, which may also proffer its services *sua sponte* if it finds a labor emergency to exist. § 5 First. If mediation fails, the Board must endeavor to induce the parties to submit the controversy to binding arbitration, which can take place, however, only if both consent. §§ 5 First, 7. If arbitration is rejected and the dispute threatens 'substantially to interrupt interstate commerce to a degree such as to deprive any section of the country of essential transportation service, the Mediation Board shall notify the President,' who may create an emergency board to investigate and report on the dispute. § 10. While the dispute is working its way through these stages, neither party may unilaterally alter the *status quo*. §§ 2 Seventh, 5 First, 6, 10." *Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, et al.* v. *Jacksonville Terminal Co.*, 394 U.S. 369, 378 (1969).

This current phase of negotiations on the fireman manning issue extends over a five year period. There have been endless and protracted bargaining conferences. The services of the National Mediation Board have been utilized. Arbitration has been rejected by the Union. Presidential action further delaying a strike has been taken. Services of special mediators have been employed. All of these efforts undertaken within the framework of the Railway Labor Act have nevertheless proved unavailing to secure a mutually satisfactory agreement.

The Court, therefore, finds from this record that all statutory procedures have been exhausted. A strike is now imminent and the Union has declared its intention to move on a selective basis. It seeks a ruling from this Court at the point when all statutory requirements have been expended. The carriers' motion for a preliminary injunction as well as their counsel's suggestion at oral argument that the Court could grant relief on their behalf by way of summary judgment appear to be veiled recognition of the futility of the bargaining process at this point.

But has the Union in its various stages of negotiations bargained in good faith and thus exhausted the statutory remedies in fact as well as within the framework of the statutory requirements?

In *Virginia Railway Co.* v. *System Federation, Etc.*, 300 U.S. 515 (1937) Justice Stone commented on this duty under the Railway Labor Act as follows:

> "... The statute does not undertake to compel agreement between the employer and employees, but it does command those preliminary steps without which no agreement can be reached. It at least requires the employer to meet and confer with the authorized representatives of its employees, ..., to enter into a negotiation for the settlement of labor disputes such as is contemplated by § 2, First." at 548. Also, *NLRB* v. *Insurance Agents' International Union, AFL-CIO*, 361 U.S. 477, 485 (1960).

In *Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Co., et al.* v. *Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen*, 262 F. Supp. 177, 183 (D.D.C. 1967) Judge Holtzoff stated that good faith bargaining suggests

> "... an obligation to negotiate genuinely and sincerely with the aim of amicably settling the differences between the parties and concluding an agreement. It is not sufficient to appear at a conference or a meeting with the other party and to submit an offer, or to

> make a demand, and yet to decline to argue its merits, or to refuse to entertain or discuss a counter-proposal. It is not a genuine negotiation to indicate that the other party has no choice except to accept the offer or accede to the demand. The service of an ultimatum does not constitute a negotiation."

But, as our Court of Appeals has noted,

> "The procedures of the Act are purposefully long and drawn out to afford maximum inducement to peaceful settlement, but the Act does not require efforts clearly at war with reality." *Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen* v. *Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, et al.*, 127 U.S. App. D.C. 298, 302, 383 F.2d 225, 229 (1967), cert. denied 389 U.S. 1047 (1968).

Upon a review of the entire record in this proceeding within the framework of the relevant case law, the Court finds no facts presented upon which it could conclude or infer that the Union has not bargained in good faith. In fact, it is the carriers who arguably have a vested interest in further delay since the results of Arbitration Award 282 remain in effect until changed by contract or in accordance with statutory procedures. *Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen* v. *Akron & Barberton Belt Railroad Co., supra.*[11]

The carriers' thesis that previous national handling of labor disputes precludes the Union's resort to selective strikes finds no support in either the history of labor-management disputes in the railroad industry, the RLA, or appellate case law.[12] During the past twenty years the

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[11] At the expiration of the Award, on March 31, 1966, 18,000 firemen's jobs, approximately 60 percent of those subject to the jurisdiction of the Award, had been eliminated.

[12] After careful consideration this Court is unable to agree with the relevant conclusions reached in *Alton & Southern Railway Company, et al.* v. *International Association of Machinists And Aerospace Workers, et al.*, 310 F. Supp. 905 (D.D.C. 1970), appeal pending No. 24217 (U.S. App. D.C.).

predecessor union, the BLF&E, and other railroad operating unions have on numerous occasions exercised the right to individual and selective strikes even though the basic dispute giving rise to the strike had been and was at the time the subject of national handling.

In early 1950, the identical issue underlying this proceeding, the extent to which diesel locomotives should be manned with firemen, gave rise to a selective strike by the BLF&E. At that time, the procedures of the Act had been exhausted through national handling by the parties without success. That union, then representing the firemen, resorted to a strike against only eight of the nation's carriers participating in negotiations.[13] This strike led to the enactment of the National Diesel Agreement of May 17, 1950.

Likewise in 1952, the BLF&E, in concert with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Order of Railway Conductors, resorted to a selective strike against several carriers.[14] The matters involved—wages and rules—were and had been subject to national handling. However, the unions saw fit to strike a few of the carriers involved.

A similar strategy has been employed by railroad unions other than the BLF&E. In 1950 the Switchmen's Union of North America, later becoming a member of the UTU, struck five railroads on the matter of the 40-hour work week.[15] There too, immediately prior to the strike, the matter had been the subject of national handling.

And, in 1955 unions representing certain non-operating railroad employees called a strike against a group of South-

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[13] Sixteenth Annual Report of the National Mediation Board (1950).

[14] Eighteenth Annual Report of the National Mediation Board pps. 6-8 (1952).

[15] Sixteenth Annual Report of the National Mediation Board, pps. (1950).

eastern carriers (the Louisville and Nashville Railroad System) on matters then in national handling.[16] Involved in the national handling of negotiations were three carrier associations—Eastern and Western Carriers' Conference Committees and the Southeastern Carriers' Conference Committee. The carriers affiliated with the Eastern and Western Committees executed a collective bargaining agreement with the unions. But the Southeastern Carriers refused to ratify the agreement executed by other carriers. The unions then struck against the Louisville and Nashville System, part of the Southeastern Conference. That strike is also of importance since it demonstrates that on at least one occasion the carriers themselves have taken selective action on matters in national handling.

Finally, the Court notes that only several years ago the carriers, by implication, recognized selective strikes as a legitimate and legal union weapon upon exhaustion of statutory procedural requirements. *Kennedy, et al.* v. *Long Island Rail Road Company, et al.*, 211 F. Supp. 478 (S.D. N.Y. 1962), aff'd. 319 F.2d 366 (2nd Cir. 1963), cert. denied 375 U.S. 830 (1963). There, as a direct response to the union's strike against a single railroad, the Long Island, the carriers created an insurance plan designed to protect their group. No contention was made by the carriers that the selective strike against Long Island was illegal, but rather they defended the insurance plan as a necessary responsive weapon to the Union's action.

The Union's position also find irrefutable support in recent Supreme Court decisions. In *Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, et al.* v. *Jacksonville Terminal Co., supra,* the Court emphasized

> "Nowhere does the text of the Railway Labor Act specify what is to take place once these procedures

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[16] Twenty-First Annual Report of the National Mediation Board, 5-7 (1955).

> have been exhausted without yielding resolution of the dispute. Implicit in the statutory scheme, however, is the ultimate right of the disputants to resort to self-help—'the inevitable alternative in a statutory scheme which deliberately denies the final power to compel arbitration.' . . . We have consistently so held in a long line of decisions. . . ." at 378 (citations omitted).

As recent history demonstrates, support of the position of the carriers would inevitably result in a choice between never striking or precipitating a national emergency and an imposed settlement,[17] thus depriving the employees of their implicitly guaranteed and most effective economic tactic—the right to strike.

The RLA makes no provision for compulsory arbitration of major disputes.[18] And the Supreme Court has admonished against

> ". . . functioning as an arbiter of the sort of economic weapons the parties can use in seeking to gain acceptance of their bargaining demands . . . [by entering into] the substantive aspects of the bargaining process to an extent Congress has not countenanced." *NLRB* v. *Insurance Agents' International Union, AFL-CIO, supra.* See also *NLRB* v. *Drivers Local 639, Int'l Bro. of Teamsters, Etc. of America,* 362 U.S. 274, 281-4 (1960); *NLRB* v. *Erie Resistor Corp., et al.,* 373 U.S. 221, 234 (1963).

There is no authority for this Court to concern itself with what "economic sanctions might be permitted negotiating parties in an 'ideal' or 'balanced' state of collective bar-

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[17] See: Act of August 28, 1963, Pub. L. No. 88-108, 77 Stat. 129. Also, Act of July 17, 1967, Pub. L. No. 90-54, 81 Stat. 122; Act of April 9, 1970, Pub. L. No. 91-226, 84 Stat. 118.

[18] See 45 U.S.C. §§ 157, 158 and 159.

gaining." *NLRB* v. *Insurance Agents' Int'l. Union, supra,* at 500. ". . . [T]here is simply no inconsistency between the application of economic pressure and good faith collective bargaining." *Id.,* at 494, 495.

The Court concludes that national handling of the fireman manning dispute is obligatory in negotiations because of the "practical appropriateness of mass bargaining" and the "historical experience" in these circumstances.[19] Considerations of safety and training for future locomotive engineers are uniquely appropriate for general national standards. And negotiations and past agreements concerning the fireman manning dispute indicate a clear acceptance by the parties of national handling.[20] But once the statutory procedures have been exhausted in good faith without agreement negotiations have legally reached an impasse. Selective strike action then becomes a legitimate economic tool so long as the Union continues to seek a national agreement by applying economic pressure on the carriers without seeking to coerce individual carriers into deserting the multi-employer bargaining unit and settling on an individual basis.[21] See *American Shipbuilding Co.*

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[19] *Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen* v. *Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Co., supra.* There the issue was whether a union is required to continue *negotiating* on a national handling basis once such a course had been undertaken. The issue of striking once negotiations had reached a statutory impasse was not considered. See also, *Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad* v. *Railway Employes' Department, AFL-CIO,* 301 F. Supp. 603 (D.D.C. 1969).

[20] See especially: 1950 National Diesel Agreement; the chronology of the dispute, Report of Emergency Board No. 177, Appendix B, *supra;* and Supplementary Affidavit of Jesse L. Shattuck, attached to Reply Memorandum for plaintiff, filed in this proceeding December 10, 1970, par. 7, p. 3.

[21] The Court does not decide whether selective strikes are so limited when national handling is not obligatory. And since this is a declaratory action, the Court merely prescribes what is permissible in the future. Whether previous actions failed to conform with this Memorandum Opinion need not be examined.

v. *NLRB*, 380 U.S. 300 (1965); *Morand Bros. Beverage Co.* v. *NLRB*, 190 F.2d 576, 581-2 (7th Cir. 1951).[22]

Despite the immediate public interest and pressure for a resolution of the fireman manning dispute, support of the position of the carriers would encourage nationwide strikes[23] and read a new chapter into the provisions of the Railway Labor Act in disregard of the express mandate of Congress.

Counsel for the plaintiff will submit an appropriate order within five days.

BARRINGTON PARKER
Judge

March 8, 1971

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[22] The cases cited by the carriers, particularly at page 20 of their supplemental memorandum of points and authorities in opposition to the plaintiff's motion for summary judgment, filed September 21, 1970, all support the position that a whipsaw strike under the National Labor Relations Act is prohibited only when its purpose is to compel individual employers to withdraw from an existing multi-employer bargaining unit.

[23] Criticisms of the RLA have been directed at the delays in reaching agreement rather than the Act's rather successful record in preventing national strikes. D. Cullen, National Emergency Strikes (1968), n. 11 at 69; L. H. Silberman, National Emergency Disputes—The Considerations behind A Legislative Proposal, 4 Georgia L. Rev. 673, 676 (1970).

(Filed March 31, 1971)

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

September Term, 1970

No. 71-1183

Civil 2717-70

THE DELAWARE AND HUDSON RAILWAY COMPANY, ET AL.,

v.

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, *Appellant*

BROTHERHOOD OF RAILWAY, AIRLINES AND STEAMSHIP CLERKS, ETC., ET AL.

Before: WRIGHT, LEVENTHAL and WILKEY, Circuit Judges.

Order

This cause came on for consideration on appellant's motion for summary reversal, and the Court heard argument of counsel. On consideration thereof, it is

ORDERED by the Court that the order of the District Court granting a preliminary injunction is hereby reversed, and it is

FURTHER ORDERED by the Court that this case is hereby remanded to remain on the docket of the District Court and subject to its continuing jurisdiction, for such further proceedings as may become appropriate, not inconsistent with the opinion of this Court filed herein this date.

PER CURIAM

For the Court:

NATHAN J. PAULSON
Clerk

Dated: March 31, 1971.
Opinion by Circuit Judge Leventhal.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

No. 71-1183

THE DELAWARE AND HUDSON RAILWAY COMPANY, ET AL.

v.

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, *Appellant, et al.*

Statement in explanation of the effect of the judgment of the court issued March 31, 1971.

1. The judgment of the Court of Appeals does not become effective until its mandate is transmitted to the District Court. The general rules provide that the mandate is transmitted 21 days after the issuance of the judgment, unless the court orders that the mandate issue either at an earlier or at a later date, on its own motion or on the request of a party.

2. When the mandate issues, the judgment reversing the preliminary injunction of the District Court will have the effect of vacating that injunction.

3. Until the mandate of the Court of Appeals is transmitted to the District Court, the preliminary injunction of the District Court remains in effect and prohibits the union from calling a strike. When the mandate of the Court of Appeals is transmitted and vacates that injunction, the union will be free to call a strike against carriers, subject to the provisions of the court's opinion, which includes a requirement of two weeks' notice.

4. The mandate of the Court of Appeals will remand the case to be maintained on the docket of the District Court. It does not require further proceedings in the District Court. It will permit further proceedings in the District Court if they should become appropriate.

(Filed April 15, 1971)

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT
September Term, 1970

No. 71-1183

Civil 2717-70

THE DELAWARE AND HUDSON RAILWAY COMPANY, ET AL.,

v.

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, *Appellant*

BROTHERHOOD OF RAILWAY, AIRLINES AND STEAMSHIP CLERKS, ETC., ET AL.

Before: WRIGHT, LEVENTHAL and WILKEY, Circuit Judges.

Order

On consideration of appellant's motion to expedite issuance of mandate or to vacate injunction, of appellees' motion for a stay of the mandate pending application to the Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari, and of the responsive pleadings filed with respect to the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Court that the Clerk is directed to stay the issuance of the mandate until April 26, 1971. The Court has reasonable assurance that a petition for a writ of certiorari filed on or before that date will be presented to the Supreme Court in time for disposition this Term. However, this Court has concluded that there is good cause for it to exercise its authority under Rule 2 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure to suspend that portion of Rule 41(b), third sentence, which provides that the stay shall continue if the petition for certiorari is filed until final disposition by the Supreme Court. Accordingly, it is

FURTHER ORDERED by the Court that the stay will terminate on the day after the Supreme Court has concluded the 1970 Term, unless the Supreme Court has previously granted certiorari.

PER CURIAM

SUPREME COURT, U. S.

FILED

MAY 14 1971

E. ROBERT SEAVER, CLERK

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1970

No. 1634

DELAWARE & HUDSON RAILWAY COMPANY, ET AL.,
Petitioners,

v.

UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, *Respondent.*

On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

BRIEF FOR RESPONDENT IN OPPOSITION

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IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

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No. 1634

DELAWARE & HUDSON RAILWAY COMPANY, ET AL.,
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UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, *Respondent.*

On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

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BRIEF FOR RESPONDENT IN OPPOSITION

OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion of the Court of Appeals (including the appendices thereto), not yet officially reported, is set forth in the Appendix to the Petition at 1a-72a, and is unofficially reported at 76 LRRM 2900 and 65 Labor Cases ¶ 11,629. One of the appendices to that opinion sets forth the oral opinion of the District Court (Pet. App., at 56a-59a), and that oral opinion is unofficially reported at 76 LRRM 2898.

JURISDICTION

The jurisdictional requisites are adequately set forth in the Petition.

QUESTION PRESENTED

When: (1) uniform proposals under Section 6 of the Railway Labor Act for changes in collective agreements have been served by the local committees of a union on each of the principal railroads of the country, and

(2) each such railroad has responded with uniform counterproposals, and

(3) such proposals and counterproposals have been negotiated, locally and on a joint national basis, through all the procedures of the Railway Labor Act without agreement having been reached, and

(4) the right to strike over the resulting dispute has concededly matured:

Then, does the Railway Labor Act require the union to strike, if at all, simultaneously on all the railroads involved, thus creating a national emergency, or does the union have the option of striking one or some of the railroads in pursuit of an agreement with all of them, so as to try to gain a settlement without bringing on a national emergency?

STATUTES INVOLVED

The Petition (pages 2-4) sets forth all the provisions of the Railway Labor Act that might conceivably be involved, but it is not clear to us from the Petition that Petitioners' differences with the Court of Appeals

turn on the construction to be given any of these provisions.[1]

STATEMENT

As indicated by our statement of the Question Presented, this dispute under the Railway Labor Act began, as have all such disputes in the past forty years that have been jointly nationally handled, with the service of uniform notices of proposed changes in the collective contract served pursuant to Section 6 of the Railway Labor Act on each of the principal railroads individually. Thereafter, pursuant to voluntary mutual agreements, after local conferences had been concluded, those railroads and those union committees that wanted to participate in joint national handling set up the customary apparatus for such handling. When all the procedures of the Railway Labor Act had been exhausted, and a Congressionally imposed additional postponement of the right to strike for about 80 days (Pub. L. 91-541) had expired, the union called a strike on two railroads, one in the West and one in the Southeast.

The District Court issued a preliminary injunction against the strike, holding that a strike against only some of the railroads involved was illegal, although concededly the union then had the right to strike all the involved railroads and struck the two in pursuit of a national agreement and not pursuant to any purpose in derogation of national handling. The Court of Appeals, upon an expedited appeal but after the most thorough consideration, unanimously reversed in a forty-page opinion with a forty-page appendix, and remanded the case to the continuing jurisdiction of the

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[1] See p. 4, *infra*.

District Court for such further proceedings as may become appropriate. (Pet. App. 1a-72a)

The Petition devotes some nine pages to a highly argumentative[2] statement of the facts. The Court of Appeals, in the opinion below, states the facts in great detail in almost exactly one half the space. We refer the Court to that statement (Pet. App. 2a-6a) for greater detail.

ARGUMENT

It takes some care to find just where Petitioners differ with the Court below on any point of law. Petitioners' complaint seems to be that the Court of Appeals accepted as fact, established by the uncontradicted testimony of the president of the union, that the genuine purpose of the union in striking two railroads was to get a national settlement, whereas Petitioners believe the purpose must have been to break up national handling because, according to them, that is an inevitable consequence of such a strike. So analyzed the difference resolves itself into one concerning the factual conclusions to be drawn from the evidence and is obviously not one appropriate for this Court's review.

Nevertheless, Petitioners are apparently arguing a point of law. At times that point seems to be that a strike against less than all the carriers has such inevitably destructive effects on national handling that, as a matter of law, that must be held to be its purpose, no matter what the evidence may be. (Pet., pp. 22-25).

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[2] E.g., the railroad proposals were "for changes in a number of obsolete work and pay rules" with an illustrative footnote (Pet., p. 4); a page and a half is devoted to the reasons for "national handling" (Pet., pp. 5-6); "huge" wage increases were recommended by Emergency Board No. 178 (Pet., p. 8); *etc.*

Elsewhere, Petitioners' argument seems to be, as the District Court held in this case, that a failure to make individual agreements (and thus to break up national handling) is unduly coercive on the individual railroad and hence illegal. (Pet., pp. 26-27).

These two arguments are inherently contradictory, but they have the virtue from Petitioners' point of view of both leading to the conclusion that the only strike permissible under the Railway Labor Act after national handling is a national strike regardless of the sincerity and good faith of the union's desire to negotiate a settlement with a minimum of harm to the public. This virtue is the more remarkable since the only statutory provisions the Petitioners' arguments can be predicated on are those imposing the duty to bargain in good faith and those expressing the overall purpose to minimize strikes.

I

THE DECISION BELOW IS CLEARLY CORRECT

As we have seen, the point of law decided by the Court below was the extremely narrow one rejecting Petitioners' contention that the Railway Labor Act never permits a union, after national handling, to strike less than all the carriers involved simultaneously. In support of its decision the Court rendered a most carefully reasoned and detailed opinion giving meticulous consideration to all of Petitioners' arguments. The opinion itself is the most eloquent exposition of the correctness of the decision.

Petitioners would have us believe that there is at issue a most difficult and thorny problem in the administration of the Railway Labor Act. This is not so. There has been national handling of railway labor dis-

putes that were appropriate for such handling for approximately forty years. During that time there have from time to time been selective strikes leading to national settlements. Judge Parker cites some of them in his opinion in *United Transportation Union* v. *Burlington Northern,* Civil Action No. 2183-70, quoted in the Appendix to the opinion below. (Pet. App. 60a, 68a-69a).

The only troublesome problem that has existed has arisen from the fact that in the last couple of years Petitioners have persuaded two District Court judges in the District of Columbia Circuit to issue preliminary injunctions against selective strikes[3] and the Court of Appeals has not heretofore reviewed such an order. Now that it has reviewed one, all that is necessary is for this Court to allow that decision to go into effect by denying the Petition.

What we have here contrasts sharply with what was presented in the cases Petitioners cite (Pet. p. 17) for the proposition that on several occasions in recent years this Court has seen fit to review issues relating to self-help in major disputes. *Shore Line* v. *Transportation Union,* 396 U.S. 142 (1969) involved the novel question

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[3] In the instant case and in *Alton & Southern Ry. Co.* v. *Internat. Assoc. of Mach. etc.,* reported as *Internat. Assoc. of Mach. etc.* v. *Nat. Ry. Lab. Conf.,* 310 F. Supp. 905 (D.D.C., 1970). *Chicago, B & Q R.R.* v. *Railway Emp. Dept.,* 301 F. Supp. 603 (D.D.C., 1969) which Petitioners cite as supporting the same proposition was an entirely different kind of case. It appears from the published findings and conclusions that this was not a case of a selective strike after national handling but rather a case of an attempted revision of a national agreement on an individual railroad. Actually it was an attempt to strike an individual railroad over a dispute concerning that railroad's administration of a national agreement.

of the carrier's right unilaterally to change working conditions that had not been the subject of agreement, in which counsel for the present Petitioners urged that the decision below conflicted with prior pronouncements of this Court. See 396 U.S. at 156. In *Railroad Trainmen* v. *Terminal Co.*, 394 U.S. 369 (1969) this Court granted *certiorari* "to determine the extent of state power to regulate the economic combat of parties subject to the Railway Labor Act." See 394 U.S. at 372.[4] In *Railway Clerks* v. *Florida E.C.R. Co.*, 384 U.S. 238 (1966) the railroad, the unions and the United States all petitioned for *certiorari* in a case involving the novel question of the extent of a railroad's authority to change working conditions while a strike was going on. *Locomotive Engrs.* v. *B. & O. R. Co.*, 372 U.S. 284 (1963) was a *per curiam* opinion affirming the decision below in a case in which there was no reason to grant *certiorari*, except to disapprove an improvident expression in the opinion below. See 372 U.S. at 289. *Certiorari* was granted in the pending case of *Chicago and N.W.R. Co.* v. *United Transportation Union*, No. 189, for the obvious reason that there was a square conflict in the decisions of the Courts of Appeals in the Fourth and the Seventh Circuits. *Atlantic C.L.R. Co.* v. *Engineers*, 398 U.S. 281 (1970) involved no Railway Labor Act question that had not been settled in the Jacksonville Terminal litigation but did involve an important question of federal court jurisdiction to enjoin state court action.

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[4] That case does have some interesting commentary, by analogy, on Petitioners' expressed dismay at striking "an employer who is powerless to end the strike by agreement"; the Terminal Company was picketed in a dispute under the Railway Labor Act to which it was not even a party but this Court held that neither the Federal nor State Courts had any power to interfere. See 394 U.S. at 386-91.

In each of the cases on which Petitioners rely as precedents, there were ample reasons for granting *certiorari* that are not present here.

II

THE DECISION BELOW IS IN HARMONY WITH THE RULINGS OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

The Court below correctly concluded that "the National Labor Relations Board finds nothing illegitimate or inconsistent with free collective bargaining in a union's putting pressure on a multi-employer bargaining unit by striking individual employers." (Pet. App. pp. 26a-27a). In *Arizona District Council of Carpenters,* 126 NLRB 1110, 45 LRRM 1448 (1960), the Board clearly and unmistakably holds that a union's right to engage in a limited strike, following impasse in negotiations in a multi-employer bargaining unit, is recognized and respected by the federal labor policy expressed in the National Labor Relations Act where the purpose of the strike is to apply pressure on the association. *National Labor Relations Board* v. *Truck Drivers Union (Buffalo Linen),* 353 U.S. 87 (1957) and *National Labor Relations Board* v. *Brown,* 380 U.S. 278 (1965), upon which Petitioners apparently rely, deal with the converse issue of the right of the members of a multi-employer unit to lock out non-striking employees in response to a selective strike following impasse in association-wide bargaining. The fact is that these decisions sustain the Board's premise that the union has the right to engage in a selective strike in the circumstances which are present in this case. In *Buffalo Linen,* the Board defined its position before this Court as supporting "an accommodation . . . of both the union's right to strike in support of

contract demands and the employer's recognized interest in preserving the unity of their group bargaining position." (Briefs of counsel, *National Labor Relations Board* v. *Truck Drivers,* 1 L.Ed. 2d 2017). This Court, in sustaining the Board's position, explicitly rejected the view "that the Union strike constituted a withdrawal by the Union from the multi-employer bargaining unit", noting that, "On the contrary, the Union continued to carry on negotiations with the Exchange until an agreement was reached and signed." (353 U.S. at p. 94, ftnt. 22.) *National Labor Relations Board* v. *Brown, supra,* simply applies the *Buffalo Linen* principle to somewhat broader facts.[5]

Petitioners' statement in their foonote 14 that, contrary to the opinion of the Court below, the *Arizona* case, *supra,* is "an aberration" is completely without foundation. The structure of Board decisions in this entire area establishes beyond question the authority of the *Arizona* decision.[6] The various cases cited by Petitioners involve attempts by unions to deprive the employer of his right to designate his bargaining representative and thereby to dismantle the multi-employer

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[5] In *Brown,* the Court disagreed with the Board's judgment "as to the proper balance to be struck between [these legitimate] conflicting interests" (at p. 292). The Board's premise in *Brown* that the selective strike was lawful was undisturbed.

[6] The General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board has stated publicly that he will not issue complaints in this line of cases where, as in *Arizona* and here, the union strikes fewer than all of the members of a multi-employer unit following impasse in bargaining and where the "evidence does not contradict [the] union's assertion that [the] selection of struck employers stemmed solely from [the] union's desire to exert greatest economic pressure without putting all of its members on strike" (General Counsel's Ruling No. S R-1994, 50 LRRM 1181 (1962)). Thus, a case of this kind will not be processed before the Board.

bargaining unit in violation of Section 8(b) (1) (B) of the National Labor Relations Act. Here, as in *Buffalo Linen, supra,* the uncontradicted evidence establishes that Respondent will deal only with the authorized representative of Petitioners so long as the authorization is unrevoked. It should be noted, in this connection, that this line of Board cases reflects the Board's concern with the stability of collective bargaining units and that the Board has established clear rules governing the procedure which must be followed by an employer in seceding from the multi-employer unit and by the union in withdrawing its consent to bargain upon a multi-employer basis. See *Washington Post Company,* 165 NLRB No. 118, 65 LRRM 1504 (1967); *Evening News Assn.,* 154 NLRB 1494, 60 LRRM 1149 (1965) and Evening News Assn., 154 NLRB 1482, 60 LRRM 1154 (1965), enforced 372 F. 2d 569 (C.A. 6. 1967); 31st Annual Report of the National Labor Relations Board (1966), pp. 89-90, 145; 32nd Annual Report of the National Labor Relations Board (1967), pp. 115-116.

We submit that, contrary to the representations made by Petitioners, the decisions and policies of the National Labor Relations Board are in harmony with the decision below.

III

PETITIONERS' ARGUMENT IS ESSENTIALLY THAT CONGRESS FAILED TO ACHIEVE ITS MAJOR PURPOSES IN ENACTING THE RAILWAY LABOR ACT

This Court has expressly recognized that among the major objectives of Congress in enacting the Railway Labor Act were the facilitation of the voluntary settlement of disputes through collective bargaining, the minimization of interruptions of commerce through strikes, but withal the preservation of the ultimate right

of the disputants to resort to self-help. See *Brotherhood of R. Trainmen* v. *Terminal Company,* 394 U.S. 369 at 378-80. Petitioners would have us believe that Congress failed dismally to accomplish these purposes.

Petitioners' argument as to the "dire financial straits" of the railroad industry (Pet. p. 17) must have an unexpressed minor premise. It would be palpable nonsense to argue that the industry is in such dire straits that it cannot stand having a few carriers struck selectively and so the solution is to require that all be struck. The unexpressed premise must be that the right only to strike them all is in reality no right to strike at all. That this is in fact the case was succinctly observed by Judge Parker in his opinion in *United Transportation Union* v. *Burlington Northern, supra* (quoted in Petition, App. 60a at 70a) where he points out that every attempt to strike nationally in recent years has resulted in a Congressionally imposed disposition. To the list of Congressional actions cited by Judge Parker in his footnote 17 should now be added the partial disposition by Pub. L. No. 91-541, Dec. 10, 1970.

Thus, by Petitioners' argument, Congress' objective of preserving a right to strike resulted only in preserving an illusion. Congress' purpose in providing a procedure for voluntary disposition of disputes through collective bargaining fared no better—at least where there is national handling. The right to strike and the possibility of a strike is an essential ingredient of collective bargaining. When that ingredient is taken away, as Petitioners would take it away, the result of national handling is not settlement of the dispute under the procedures of the Act but frustration, and ultimate disposition through *ad hoc* Congressional intervention.

IV

THE PETITION SHOULD BE PROMPTLY DENIED TO EXPEDITE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The Court of Appeals was evidently sensitive to the adverse effect on collective bargaining that flows from the District Court's injunction being outstanding and the mandate of the Court of Appeals being stayed. Accordingly, in its order of April 16, 1971, it conditioned the stay of its mandate beyond April 26, 1971, upon a petition for *certiorari* being filed by that date and limited the stay to the present term of this Court unless this Court has previously granted *certiorari* (Pet. App. 75a). Free collective bargaining cannot take place while one party is under injunction.

This normal consequence of an outstanding injunction is exacerbated in the present case by some of Petitioners making changes in working conditions which the Respondent and the employees it represents regard as an implementation of certain of the carrier counterproposals under the guise of existing rules. This activity led to a threatened strike on the Erie-Lackawanna and to an action by the carrier seeking an injunction in the federal district court for the Northern District of Ohio which action has been transferred to the District of Columbia, Civil Action No. 817-71. Similar activity on the Illinois Central led to the filing of a supplemental answer in the instant case. In both cases Respondent is seeking a declaratory judgment establishing its right to strike against the proposed changes and a preliminary injunction against the changes pending adjudication.

The only real solution, in the interest of both Respondent and Petitioner and of the public, is a negotiated settlement. No progress toward such a settlement is being made while the Petition is pending.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons the Petition should be denied at the earliest date consistent with this Court's consideration of the matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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